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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

#### 11 DECEMBER 2025

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4.	<b>Machado's daughter Ana accepts Nobel Peace Prize in her absence</b> मचाडो की बेटी एना ने उनकी अनुपस्थिति में नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार स्वीकार किया
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## Tharoor rejects Veer Savarkar Award

PCS

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Following media reports that he had been nominated for the Veer Savarkar International Impact Award-2025, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said that in the absence of clarifications about its nature and the organisation presenting the award, the question of his accepting it did not arise. The non-governmental organisation High Range Rural Development Society has instituted the award.

"I had clarified that I was neither aware of, nor had accepted, such an award and it was irresponsible on the part of the organisers to announce my name without my having agreed to receive it," he said through his X handle.

## Tharoor rejects Veer Savarkar Award थरूर ने वीर सावरकर पुरस्कार ठुकराया

- Tharoor rejects Veer Savarkar Award  
थरूर वीर सावरकर अवार्ड ठुकराते हैं
- Following media reports that he had been nominated for the **Veer Savarkar International Impact Award-2025**, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said that in the absence of clarifications about its nature and the organisation presenting the award, the question of his accepting it did not arise.  
मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार कि उन्हें वीर सावरकर इंटरनेशनल इम्पैक्ट अवार्ड-2025 के लिए नामित किया गया था, कांग्रेस सांसद शशि थरूर ने बुधवार को कहा कि इसके स्वरूप और यह पुरस्कार देने वाले संगठन के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण न होने की स्थिति में इसे स्वीकार करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।
- The non-governmental organisation **High Range Rural Development Society** has instituted the award.  
गैर-सरकारी संगठन **हाई रेंज रूरल डेवलपमेंट सोसाइटी** ने इस पुरस्कार को स्थापित किया है।
- "I had clarified that I was neither aware of, nor had accepted, such an award and it was irresponsible on the part of the organisers to announce my name without my having agreed to receive it," he said through his X handle.  
"मैंने स्पष्ट किया था कि न तो मैं इससे अवगत था, और न ही मैंने ऐसा कोई पुरस्कार स्वीकार किया था, और आयोजकों की यह गैर-जिम्मेदारी थी कि उन्होंने मेरे सहमति दिए बिना मेरा नाम घोषित कर दिया," उन्होंने अपने X हैंडल पर कहा।



# Deepavali enters intangible heritage list

UNESCO says it strengthens social bonds, supports traditional crafts, reinforces values of generosity; PM says people are thrilled at the honour; Minister calls it a moment of national pride

PCS

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**D**eepavali, India's festival of lights, was on Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The inscription was adopted in the presence of Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, senior officials, and delegates from 194 member states, international experts, and representatives of UNESCO's global network, at an event held at the Red Fort here.

The announcement came during the 20th session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee.

UNESCO's inscription



**Living heritage:** Deepavali thrives through the contributions of potters crafting traditional earthen lamps. VIJAY SONEJI

acknowledges Deepavali as a living heritage that strengthens social bonds, supports traditional craftsmanship, reinforces values of generosity and well-being, and contributes meaningfully to several Sustainable Development Goals.

Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said people in India and around the world were thrilled at the UNESCO honour. "For us, Deepavali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilisation. The addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List will

contribute to the festival's global popularity even further," he said in a post on X.

Addressing the international delegates at the event, the Union Minister said the inscription marks a moment of immense pride for India and for communities across the world who keep alive the timeless spirit of Deepavali.

Highlighting the people-centric nature of the festival, he emphasised that Deepavali thrives through the contributions of millions, including potters crafting traditional 'diyas' (earthen lamps), artisans preparing festive decor, farmers, sweet-makers, priests, and households that uphold age-old customs.

(With PTI inputs)

## Deepavali enters intangible heritage list दीपावली अमूर्त विरासत सूची में शामिल होती है

- Deepavali enters intangible heritage list **UNESCO** says **it strengthens social bonds, supports traditional crafts, reinforces values of generosity**; PM says people are thrilled at the honour; Minister calls it a moment of national pride  
दीपावली enters intangible heritage list **यूनेस्को** कहता है कि यह सामाजिक संबंधों को मजबूत करता है, पारंपरिक शिल्प का समर्थन करता है, **उदारता** के मूल्यों को मजबूत करता है; पीएम कहते हैं कि लोग इस सम्मान से रोमांचित हैं; मंत्री इसे राष्ट्रीय गर्व का क्षण कहते हैं
- Deepavali, India's festival of lights, was on Wednesday inscribed on the **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.  
दीपावली, भारत का प्रकाश पर्व, को बुधवार को **यूनेस्को की मानवता की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत की प्रतिनिधि सूची** में अंकित किया गया।
- The inscription was adopted in the presence of Union Minister of Culture **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, senior officials, and delegates from **194 member states**, international experts, and representatives of UNESCO's global network, at an event held at the **Red Fort** here.  
यह अभिलेखन केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्री **गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत**, वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों, और **194 सदस्य देशों** के प्रतिनिधियों, अंतरराष्ट्रीय विशेषज्ञों, तथा यूनेस्को के वैश्विक नेटवर्क के प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में यहाँ **लाल किले** पर आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में अपनाया गया।
- The **announcement came during the 20th session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee**.  
यह घोषणा यूनेस्को की अंतर-सरकारी समिति के **20वें सत्र** के दौरान आई।
- **UNESCO's inscription acknowledges Deepavali as a living heritage that strengthens social bonds, supports traditional craftsmanship, reinforces values of generosity and well-being,**



and contributes meaningfully to several **Sustainable Development Goals**.

यूनेस्को का अभिलेखन दीपावली को एक जीवित विरासत के रूप में मान्यता देता है जो सामाजिक संबंधों को मजबूत करती है, पारंपरिक शिल्पकला का समर्थन करती है, **उदारता** और कल्याण के मूल्यों को सुदृढ़ करती है, और कई **सतत विकास लक्ष्यों** में सार्थक योगदान करती है।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said people in India and around the world were thrilled at the UNESCO honour. "For us, Deepavali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilization. The addition of Deepavali to the **UNESCO Intangible Heritage List** will contribute to the festival's global popularity even further," he said in a post on X. प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने कहा कि भारत और दुनिया भर के लोग यूनेस्को सम्मान से रोमांचित हैं। "हमारे लिए, दीपावली हमारी संस्कृति और आचार के साथ बहुत निकटता से जुड़ी है। यह हमारी सभ्यता की आत्मा है। दीपावली को **यूनेस्को अमूर्त विरासत सूची** में जोड़ने से इस पर्व की वैश्विक लोकप्रियता और बढ़ेगी," उन्होंने एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में कहा।
- Addressing the international delegates at the event, the Union Minister said the inscription marks a moment of immense **pride** for India and for communities across the world who keep alive the timeless spirit of Deepavali. कार्यक्रम में अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिनिधियों को संबोधित करते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यह अभिलेखन भारत और दुनिया भर के उन समुदायों के लिए अत्यधिक **गर्व** का क्षण है जो दीपावली की शाश्वत भावना को जीवित रखते हैं।
- Highlighting the **people-centric nature of the festival**, he emphasised that **Deepavali thrives through the contributions of millions, including potters crafting traditional 'diyas' (earthen lamps), artisans preparing festive decor, farmers, sweet-makers, priests, and households that uphold age-old customs.** त्यौहार की जन-केंद्रित प्रकृति को रेखांकित करते हुए, उन्होंने जोर दिया कि दीपावली लाखों लोगों के योगदान से जीवित रहती है, जिनमें परंपरागत 'दिये' (मिट्टी के दीपक) बनाने वाले कुम्हार, उत्सव की सजावट तैयार करने वाले कारीगर, किसान, मिठाई बनाने वाले, पुजारी, और वे परिवार शामिल हैं जो प्राचीन रीति-रिवाजों को बनाए रखते हैं।

### UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

- "Intangible" means something **you cannot touch**.
- Intangible cultural heritage refers to:
  - Traditions
  - Performing arts
  - Skills
  - Knowledge
  - Festivals
  - Craft techniques

...that communities pass from **one generation to the next**.

These are **living traditions**, not monuments or buildings.

- A classical dance like **Bharatanatyam**
- A craft skill like **Kutch embroidery**
- A festival like **Vijayadashami**
- A food tradition like **making traditional bread**





- Oral storytelling and folk songs

These are practiced, taught, adapted, and **kept alive by the community.**

## 2. What is UNESCO's Representative List?

- UNESCO (a UN body for culture and education) maintains a list called: **"The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."**



### Purpose of the List

- To **recognize and celebrate** living cultural traditions around the world
- To **encourage countries to preserve** these traditions
- To **increase respect and understanding** among cultures
- To help communities feel **proud** of their heritage



## 3. What kind of traditions get included? (With simple examples)

The Representative List covers **five broad categories.**

**A. Performing Arts:** These traditions involve music, drama, and movement passed down over generations.

Examples:

- **Flamenco** (Spain)
- **Kabuki Theatre** (Japan)
- **Bharatanatyam** (India)



**B. Social Practices, Rituals, Festivals:** These showcase community identity, beliefs, and celebrations.

Examples:

- **Nowruz (Persian New Year)** – celebrated across many countries
- **Yoga** (India) – a physical, mental, and spiritual practice
- **Kumbh Mela** (India) – the biggest peaceful gathering on Earth



**C. Traditional Knowledge and Skills:** These are everyday skills that form the backbone of community life.

Examples:

- Traditional pottery
- Handloom weaving
- Traditional boat-building methods





**D. Oral Traditions & Expressions:** These connect generations through shared stories.

Examples:

- Folk songs
- Epics recited orally
- Storytelling traditions like the epics of West Africa or India



**E. Traditional Food Practices (Culinary heritage):** Food practices show cultural identity and community bonding.

Examples:

- **Kimchi making** (Korea)
- **Neapolitan Pizza making art** (Italy)
- Traditional bread-making in many countries



#### 4. Why does UNESCO maintain this list?

##### A. To protect endangered traditions

Some traditions are at risk due to:

- Globalization
- Urbanization
- Loss of practitioners

UNESCO recognition encourages governments to support them.

**B. To honor and promote cultural diversity:** Each tradition reflects a unique worldview. Preserving them ensures that humanity remains culturally rich.

**C. To strengthen community pride:** Communities feel valued when their traditions are globally recognized.

**D. To support sustainable development:** Local crafts and arts can generate:

- Employment
- Tourism
- Cultural education

India has several elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List, such as:

- **Yoga**
- **Kumbh Mela**
- **Ramlila** (traditional enactment of Ramayana)
- **Nawrouz** (shared across several countries including India)
- **Mudiyettu** (ritual theatre of Kerala)
- **Chhau dance** (eastern India)
- **Kalbelia folk songs and dances** (Rajasthan)





- Koodiyattam (Sanskrit theatre of Kerala)

### Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This field was not among the initial five fields which were considered for a Nobel. **Ans: Economics**

2. Name the institution that established the prize in Economics.

**Ans: Bank of Sweden**

3. The maximum number of people who can share a Nobel. **Ans: 3**

4. Name the youngest and oldest Nobel laureates. **Ans: Malala Yusufzai and John B. Goodenough**

**Goodenough**

5. The first Indian to win a Nobel.

**Ans: Rabindranath Tagore**

Visual: Name this writer who declined a Nobel awarded for literature. **Ans: Jean Paul Sartre**

**Early Birds:** Siddhartha

Viswanathan| Gaurav Deshmukh|

Ambarin Aslam| Aaradhya Yadav|

Deepak Sudhir

## QUIZ

**This field was not among the initial five fields which were considered for a Nobel.**

Ans: Economics

- The Nobel Prizes were originally established in **1895** by the will of **Alfred Nobel**, covering **five fields: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace**.

- **Economics** was **not** part of these original fields.

- What we call the "Nobel Prize in Economics" today is **not** a Nobel Prize as defined in Alfred Nobel's will.

- Nobel's will specified the award categories that would "benefit mankind," focusing on areas central to scientific and humanitarian progress in the late 19th century.

- The **first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901** in the five original fields.

- These categories reflected disciplines that Nobel himself considered fundamental to human advancement.

### Why Economics Was Not Included Originally

- In the late 19th century, **Economics** had not yet developed as a formalized academic discipline at the level of the natural sciences.

- Nobel did not mention or conceptualize Economics as a candidate field in his will.

- As Nobel's will strictly defined the prize categories, **no additional prizes** could be included without outside institutions creating and funding them.

### Creation of the Prize in Economic Sciences

- In **1968**, on its **300th anniversary**, **Sveriges Riksbank** (Sweden's Central Bank) established and endowed a new award:

**"The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel."**

- This was **not** created by Alfred Nobel but by the **Central Bank**, nearly **73 years** after Nobel's death.

- The first award in this new field was presented in **1969**.

- The inaugural laureates were: **Ragnar Frisch & Jan Tinbergen**

- They were honored for their work in **econometrics** and **dynamic economic modelling**.

### Official Name and Key Distinction

- Formal title:

**Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**

- It is administered by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**, like the prizes in Physics and Chemistry.

- Although treated **ceremonially and financially** like other Nobel Prizes, it is **not part of the original**



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five, nor is it funded from Alfred Nobel's bequest.

- Prize money in recent years equals that of other Nobel Prizes (e.g., about **11 million SEK**).
- The field increasingly recognizes work in:

- Behavioral economics
- Development economics
- Experimental economics
- Public policy-oriented economic research

## Institution that Established the Prize in Economics

**Answer: Bank of Sweden (Sveriges Riksbank)**

• Although established by the Bank of Sweden, the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** selects the winners.

• Laureates receive:

- A gold medal
- A diploma
- A monetary award equal to other Nobel Prizes

• It is presented every year on **10 December**, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

• In recent decades, the prize has increasingly recognized work with **real-world policy relevance**, such as:

- Poverty alleviation
- Labour markets
- Market design
- Climate economics
- Financial stability
- The award has helped elevate economics into a globally respected scientific field.

## Maximum Number of People Who Can Share a Nobel Prize

**Answer: 3**

• The Nobel Foundation statutes clearly state that **no more than three individuals** may share a single Nobel Prize.

• This rule applies to all categories: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences.

### Why the Limit Is Three

• Nobel Prizes are intended to reward **distinct, identifiable contributions** rather than collective or institutional work.

• Modern scientific research often involves large teams, but the Nobel Committees must identify the **three individuals** whose contributions were the most fundamental or decisive.

• This rule preserves the original spirit of Nobel's vision: honouring individuals who have made the **greatest benefit to humanity**.

### Examples Demonstrating the Rule of Three

• Many major awards have been shared by exactly three people:

- The detection of gravitational waves (Physics)
- The discovery of Green Fluorescent Protein (Chemistry)
- The identification of the Hepatitis C virus (Medicine)

• Even in fields where thousands contributed (e.g., LIGO or CERN), only **three primary contributors** may be officially named.

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## Institutions and the Nobel Prize

- Institutions may receive the **Nobel Peace Prize**, but not in the scientific or literature categories.
- Even when an institution receives the Peace Prize, the rule of **three individuals maximum** still applies if people are awarded.

## Importance of the Rule in Today's Scientific World

- Modern "big science" relies on global teams, yet Nobel rules force committees to distill contributions down to a small, select group of individuals.
- This sometimes sparks debate, but it preserves the exclusivity and prestige of the prize.
- Despite growing pressure to expand the limit, **the maximum remains three**.

## Youngest and Oldest Nobel Laureates

**Answer: Malala Yousafzai (Youngest) and John B. Goodenough (Oldest)**

- Malala Yousafzai received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at just 17 years old**, making her the youngest Nobel laureate ever.
- She was awarded jointly with **Kailash Satyarthi** for their efforts to promote children's rights and ensure access to education worldwide.
- Malala became a global symbol of courage after surviving an assassination attempt in 2012 for advocating girls' education in Pakistan's Swat Valley.
- Through the **Malala Fund**, she continues to work toward ensuring that every girl has access to quality education.

## Oldest Nobel Laureate: John B. Goodenough

- John Bannister Goodenough was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2019 at the age of 97**, making him the oldest Nobel laureate in history.
- He was honoured for his groundbreaking role in the **development of lithium-ion batteries**, which power modern electronics, electric vehicles, and renewable energy systems.
- His scientific contributions have transformed global energy storage and modern technology.

## The First Indian to Win a Nobel Prize

**Answer: Rabindranath Tagore**

- **Rabindranath Tagore** holds the historic distinction of being the **first Indian and also the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize**.
- He received the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913** for his profoundly sensitive, fresh, and beautiful poetry, especially showcased in his work "**Gitanjali**".
- His work reflected themes such as:
  - The relationship between the individual and the divine
  - Nature and spirituality
  - Human emotions and inner awakening
- He founded **Visva-Bharati University** in Santiniketan in 1921, promoting a blend of Eastern and Western learning.
- He composed the national anthems of two nations:
  - **India:** "Jana Gana Mana"
  - **Bangladesh:** "Amar Shonar Bangla"



## OSLO

### Machado's daughter Ana accepts Nobel Peace Prize in her absence



PCS

AFP

Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado's daughter, Ana Corina Sosa, accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway on her mother's behalf on Wednesday, and said in a speech written by Ms. Machado that Venezuela shows the world "we must be willing to fight for freedom". AP

### **Machado's daughter Ana accepts Nobel Peace Prize in her absence**

**मचाडो की बेटी एना ने उनकी अनुपस्थिति में नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार स्वीकार किया**

- Machado's daughter Ana accepts Nobel Peace Prize in her absence  
मचाडो की बेटी एना ने उनकी अनुपस्थिति में नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार स्वीकार किया
- Venezuelan Opposition leader **María Corina Machado's** daughter, Ana Corina Sosa, accepted the **Nobel Peace Prize** in Norway on her mother's behalf on Wednesday, and said in a speech written by Ms. Machado that **Venezuela** shows the world "we must be willing to fight for freedom".

PATRIOTIC IAS



# Germany retains the title; India pips Argentina for bronze

## HOCKEY

PCS

**K. Keerthivasan**

CHENNAI

Spain's Andres Medina fluffed his chance in the shootout, and bent down in agony before being consoled by his teammates.

On the other hand, it was ecstasy for Germany as teammates rushed to the goalkeeper Jasper Ditzler to celebrate.

It was not the usual ruthless Germany one witnessed, rather a gritty one.

The defending champion survived several anxious moments in the regulation time (1-1) and then held its nerve in the shootout to win the final 3-2 to clinch its eighth title in the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Wednesday.

### Early misses

The shootout saw a nervy start as both Germany (Jonas von Gersum) and Spain (Pere Amat) missed.

After German player's Justus Warweg's shot was saved by keeper Diego Palomero, Spain scored through Mario Mena to go 1-0 ahead. Germany equalised through Benedict Geyer.

With the score reading 2-2, Ben Hasbach scored for Germany, and when Medina missed his, it was curtains for Spain.

Earlier, India came roaring back from being 0-2 to script a sensational 4-2 victory over Argentina to bag the bronze medal.

### Stirring fightback

After defeats in the third-place playoff in 2005, 2021 and 2023, this marked India's first bronze medal in the competition and its first medal since the gold in 2016.

Incidentally, all of India's goals came in the



**Memorable moments:** The Indian team, above, brought cheer to the home fans by claiming the bronze while Germany continued its reign with a thrilling victory in the final. R. RAGU

It was India's maiden bronze medal in the competition and the first medal since the gold in 2016. With the exciting win, Germany now has eight titles

fourth quarter of which three were from penalty corners.

India scored two brilliantly deflected penalty corner goals; one by Ankit Pal and the other by Manmeet Singh.

The third goal, that too

off a PC was a direct drag-flick conversion by Anmol Ekka.

India head coach P. R. Sreejesh said the boys handled the pressure well.

"I felt like [we were] a different team in the fourth quarter. It's a process. You need to trust your process first. I told these guys is, if you can survive this pressure, this is the base.

"It was not easy for them. But they won the challenge.

"Because this is what is

going to happen in the future. The win happened because we did our homework. We planned everything. We had enough meetings."

### The results:

**Final:** Germany 1 (Justus Warweg 25) drew with Spain 1 (Nicolas Mustaros 32). Germany won the shootout 3-2.

**Bronze medal match:** India 4 (Ankit Pal 48-PC, Manmeet Singh 51-PC, Sharda Nand Tiwari 56-PS, Anmol Ekka-57-PC) bt Argentina 2 (Nicolas Rodriguez 2-PS, Santiago Fernandez 43).

**Germany retains the title; India pips Argentina for bronze**  
जर्मनी ने खिताब बरकरार रखा; भारत ने अर्जेटीना को हराकर कांस्य जीता



- Spain's **Andres Medina** fluffed his chance in the shootout, and bent down in agony before being consoled by his teammates.  
स्पेन के **एंड्रेस मेडिना** ने शूटआउट में अपना मौका गंवा दिया, और अपने टीममेट्स द्वारा सांत्वना दिए जाने से पहले दर्द में झुक गए।
- On the other hand, it was ecstasy for **Germany** as teammates rushed to the goalkeeper **Jasper Ditzer** to celebrate.  
दूसरी ओर, **जर्मनी** के लिए खुशी का क्षण था क्योंकि टीममेट्स गोलकीपर **जास्पर डिट्ज़र** के पास जश्न मनाने के लिए दौड़े।
- It was not the usual ruthless Germany one witnessed, rather a gritty one.  
यह वह आम क्रूर जर्मनी नहीं था जिसे देखा जाता है, बल्कि यह एक दृढ़ जर्मनी था।
- The defending champion survived several anxious moments in the regulation time (1-1) and then held its nerve in the shootout to win the final 3-2 to clinch its **eighth title** in the FIH junior **men's hockey World Cup at the SDAT Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium** here on Wednesday.  
प्रतिद्वंद्वी चैंपियन ने रेगुलेशन समय (1-1) में कई तनावपूर्ण क्षणों से बचा और फिर शूटआउट में अपना साहस बनाए रखा और **आठवां खिताब** जीतने के लिए फाइनल 3-2 से जीता, एफआईएच जूनियर पुरुष हॉकी विश्व कप में, SDAT मेयर राधाकृष्णन स्टेडियम में बुधवार को।

### Early misses शुरुआती चूकें

- The shootout saw a nervy start as both Germany (**Jonas von Gersum**) and Spain (**Pere Amat**) missed.  
शूटआउट की शुरुआत तनावपूर्ण रही क्योंकि जर्मनी (**जोनेस वॉन गेरसुम**) और स्पेन (**परे आमात**) दोनों ने गोल नहीं किया।
- After German player Justus **Warweg**'s shot was saved by keeper **Diego Palomero**, Spain scored through **Mario Mena** to go 1-0 ahead.  
जर्मन खिलाड़ी **जस्टस वारवेग** की शॉट को गोलकीपर **डिएगो पालोमेरो** ने बचाया, इसके बाद स्पेन ने **मारियो मेना** के माध्यम से 1-0 की बढ़त बनाई।
- Germany equalised through **Benedict Geyer**.  
जर्मनी ने **बेनडिक्ट गेयर** के माध्यम से बराबरी की।
- With the score reading 2-2, **Ben Hasbach** scored for Germany, and when Medina missed his, it was curtains for Spain.  
स्कोर 2-2 होने पर, **बेन हैस्बैच** ने जर्मनी के लिए गोल किया, और जब मेडिना ने अपना गोल नहीं किया, तो स्पेन के लिए खेल समाप्त हो गया।
- Earlier, India came roaring back from being 0-2 to script a sensational 4-2 victory over Argentina to bag the bronze medal.**  
पहले, भारत 0-2 से वापसी करते हुए अर्जेंटीना को 4-2 से हराकर **कांस्य पदक** जीतने में सफल रहा।

### GS Paper 1: History,

#### TOPICS COVERED

11 December 2025

1.

**IAF marks 1971 victory with spectacular flying display at Mohanbari**  
**आईएएफ ने 1971 की जीत को मोहानबाड़ी में शानदार उड़ान प्रदर्शन के साथ मनाया**

2.

**The national song debate, a reading between the lines**  
**राष्ट्रीय गीत बहस, पंक्तियों के बीच पढ़ना**



# IAF marks 1971 victory with spectacular flying display at Mohanbari

**GS I: History**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force celebrated India's historic triumph in the 1971 war with a commemorative event at the Mohanbari Air Force Station in Assam on Wednesday, paying an inspiring tribute to the courage and valour of the armed forces.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, along with senior military and civilian dignitaries, veterans, and enthusiastic youth from

across Assam. The IAF said a breathtaking flying display featuring Su-30 MKI, C-130, Dornier, An-32, Chinook, Mi-17, ALH and Cheetah aircraft vividly recreated iconic missions from the 1971 war, including the Tangail Airdrop, Meghna River Crossing, and the attack on the Governor's House in Dhaka.

As part of the commemoration, a seminar on 'Air operations during the 1971 war' brought together air veterans who shared gripping anecdotes and firsthand experiences from the conflict.

- The ceremony was attended by the **Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh**, along with senior military and civilian dignitaries, veterans, and enthusiastic youth from across Assam.

समारोह में वायु सेना प्रमुख, एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह, वरिष्ठ सैन्य और नागरिक गणमान्य व्यक्ति, पूर्व सैनिक और असम भर के उत्साही युवा शामिल हुए।

- The IAF said a breathtaking flying display featuring **Su-30 MKI, C-130, Dornier, An-32, Chinook, Mi-17, ALH and Cheetah** aircraft vividly recreated iconic missions from the **1971 war**, including the **Tangail Airdrop, Meghna River Crossing**, and the attack on the **Governor's House in Dhaka**.

आईएफ ने कहा कि **Su-30 MKI, C-130, Dornier, An-32, Chinook, Mi-17, ALH** और **Cheetah** विमानों की शानदार उड़ान प्रदर्शन ने **1971 के युद्ध** के प्रतिष्ठित मिशनों जैसे **टांगेल एयरड्रॉप, मेघना नदी पार करना, और ढाका में गवर्नर हाउस पर हमला** को जीवंत रूप से प्रदर्शित किया।

- As part of the commemoration, a seminar on '**Air operations during the 1971 war**' brought together air veterans who shared gripping anecdotes and firsthand experiences from the conflict.

स्मरणोत्सव के हिस्से के रूप में, '**1971 के युद्ध के दौरान वायु अभियान**' पर एक संगोष्ठी आयोजित की गई जिसमें वायु सेना के पूर्व सैनिकों ने युद्ध से जुड़े रोचक प्रसंग और अपने प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव साझा किए।

**IAF marks 1971 victory with spectacular flying display at Mohanbari**

**आईएफ ने 1971 की जीत को मोहानबाड़ी में शानदार उड़ान प्रदर्शन के साथ मनाया**

- IAF marks **1971 victory** with spectacular flying display at **Mohanbari**

आईएफ ने **1971 की जीत** को **मोहानबाड़ी** में शानदार उड़ान प्रदर्शन के साथ मनाया।



- The Indian

Air Force celebrated India's historic triumph in the **1971 war** with a commemorative event at the Mohanbari Air Force Station in **Assam** on Wednesday, paying an inspiring tribute to the courage and valour of the armed forces.

भारतीय वायु सेना ने **1971 के युद्ध** में भारत की ऐतिहासिक जीत का जश्न **असम** के मोहानबाड़ी एयर फोर्स स्टेशन में बुधवार को आयोजित एक स्मारक कार्यक्रम के साथ मनाया, जिसमें सशस्त्र बलों के साहस और पराक्रम को प्रेरणादायक श्रद्धांजलि दी गई।



## The national song debate, a reading between the lines

GS II: History

MOB

**M**uch before the celebrations of the 150th year of the national song, *Vande Mataram*, on November 7, 2025, one of India's leading music directors composed a song woven around the *Vande Mataram* tune (the album, *Maa Tujhe Salaam*). It was a song that was immensely popular. So, why the sudden focus on *Vande Mataram* and a debate in Parliament which saw accusations that words of the original song were muted to appease certain sections, and that all this amounted to a betrayal by the Congress?

The so-called 'mutilation' of the song – a line being peddled by the government of the day – was part of an official resolution of the Congress Party's Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Calcutta on October 30, 1937. The CWC meeting had Jawaharlal Nehru chairing the session and almost all the big stalwarts which included Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhulabhai Desai, Jammalal Bajaj, Acharya J.B. Kripalani (General Secretary), Pattabi Seetharamiah, Rajaji, Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in attendance.

### The sense of the meeting

Though Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the CWC, he was a special invitee and was finalising the working of the resolution which was moved by Rajendra Prasad (later, the President of India) and seconded by Sardar Patel (the Home Minister in independent India). The resolution was unanimous: "The Working Committee have given careful consideration to the question that has been raised in regard to the Congress anthem '*Vande Mataram*'. This song has a historic background and has evoked deep enthusiasm and powerful sentiment in the course of our struggle for freedom. It has thus acquired a unique place in the national movement. The Committee recognize the validity of the objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song. While the Committee have taken note of such objections in so far as it has felt justified in doing so, it is unable to go any further in the matter. The Committee have, however, come to the conclusion that the first two stanzas of the song, which alone have been generally sung on Congress and other public occasions, should be the only stanzas adopted as the National Song for the purpose of the Congress and other public bodies and functions. These two stanzas are in no sense objectionable even from the standpoint of those who have raised objections, and they contain the essence of the song. The Committee recommend that wherever the '*Vande Mataram*' song is sung at national gatherings, only these two stanzas should be sung, and the version and music prepared by Rabindranath Tagore should be followed. The Committee trust that this decision will remove all causes of complaint and will have the willing acceptance of all communities in the country."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indirectly targeted this resolution of the CWC in which even Sardar Patel was a part of. But has the Prime Minister realised that he has attacked a spectrum of national leaders, whose remarks on the song are being used selectively to try and score points? What was the purpose of debating this in Parliament? Was it to have a debate on the issue



**K. Chandru**  
is retired Judge,  
Madras High Court

The controversy being sought to be created now over *Vande Mataram* makes one doubt the intentions of the present government

for the second time much after the one in the Constituent Assembly which sealed the issue? Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Vande Mataram* was first published in the literary journal, *Bangadarshan*, in 1875 and was sung at the 1896 session of the Congress by Tagore. All these exercises took place much before the partition of Bengal.

There is no doubt that the song became the spirit of all meetings of the national movement which also had substantial representation by Muslims also. It was in 1935, when the Government of India Act was enacted, that Indians got a chance to participate in the electoral exercise to get into Provincial Assemblies and the Central Legislative Assembly. The issue of participation in the elections held in 1937 had inner party repercussions. The Congress captured the Provincial Assemblies. Some were won by the Muslim League.

When the Congress entered the portals of power, it also had the duty to ensure a diverse culture and have *Vande Mataram* sung at government functions. The Calcutta session became the focal point to decide to have the edited version so that it would have a pan-India appeal. The song obviously had references to Hindu goddesses, but if one wanted to ensure the broader unity of religious groups, a basic understanding on its theme was essential. It was this pragmatic decision which made them contest elections in alliance and continue in the government for the next two years. In 1939, the Congress ministries resigned in eight provinces of British India.

Later, when the Constituent Assembly was convened and the interim parliament was doubling as the Constituent Assembly in 1947, it had 208 Congress members, 73 Muslim League members, and 15 others. It also had 93 members nominated from the princely States, giving it a total of 389 members. After Partition, and the departure of the Muslim League members from the Constituent Assembly, there were only 299 members – a majority of them from the Hindu fold. It will not be out of place to state that the entry of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was possible when he was elected from Bengal Assembly by the Muslim League-dominated Assembly. After Partition, he could not continue and it was Nehru who made the decision to make the Bombay Governor nominate Dr. Ambedkar to the Assembly.

### Making a choice

The Constituent Assembly also had ideas of having a national anthem for the country. Members were made to listen to three important songs that were in contention – *Vande Mataram*, *Sare Jahan Se Achha* and *Jana Gana Mana*. Though secular in its meaning and set to a marching tune, *Sare Jahan Se Achha* was not picked as the lyricist, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, had become an ardent Pakistan supporter. Even after the final draft of the Constitution was adopted in 1949 in the House headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two days before the coming into force of the Constitution, in 1950, *Vande Mataram* was sung in the House by a group.

However, Members were in favour of *Jana Gana Mana*, passing a resolution that it would be the National Song. The Constitution, which has 395 Articles, never referred to any national song

as part of the constitutional framework. It was only in 1976, by the 42nd amendment, under Mrs. Gandhi's tenure, that a provision was introduced for a fundamental duty under Article 51A (which also had a clause obligating every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideas and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem).

It was later, under the Prevention Of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971, that disrespect to the National Anthem was made a penal offence. The Supreme Court of India, in *Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala*, upheld the constitutional rights to freedom of religion and expression provided that actions do not disrupt public order or show disrespect to national symbols.

Despite being a Hindu majority, the Constituent Assembly selected *Jana Gana Mana* as the national anthem and was of the opinion that *Vande Mataram* would be the national song under its adopted version. It is against this background that one has to view the sudden ebullition over *Vande Mataram* with the request made by those in the ruling party to Members of Parliament to consider whether they should add a new fundamental duty under Article 51A, to accord the same respect to *Vande Mataram* as *Jana Gana Mana*.

In 2017, Justice M.V. Muralidharan of the Madras High Court gave a direction to the Tamil Nadu School Education Department that schools must sing *Vande Mataram* at least once a week, and crooned in offices once a month. Noting that the song could also be played in other government and private establishments at least once in a month, the judge said that if people felt that it was too difficult to sing it in Bengali or in Sanskrit, steps could be taken to translate the song into Tamil.

The Delhi High Court asked the Government of India to treat *Vande Mataram* on a par with the National Anthem. What is curious is that it was the same Narendra Modi government that told the court that both the National Anthem and the National Song had their sanctity and deserve equal respect. However, it said that the subject matter of the proceedings could never be a subject matter of a writ. The Modi government defended its position in court against granting equal legal status to the National Song as the National Anthem by citing the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, which specifically criminalises disrupting the anthem but lacks a parallel provision for the National Song, highlighting the legal distinction.

### A deeper reading

The new controversy being sought to be created now over the National Song, 75 years after it was settled down by the Constituent Assembly, makes one doubt the intentions of the present government. Is there an agenda to replace the National Song by a simple resolution of Parliament akin to the similar exercise done to cancel the special status of Jammu and Kashmir?

The amount of importance and publicity being given now to a non-issue certainly makes one to believe that it could be the next move of the Narendra Modi government – which is to bring in a different National Anthem for the country without disturbing the Constitution of India and any law to the contrary.

The national song debate, a reading between the lines  
राष्ट्रीय गीत बहस, पंक्तियों के बीच पढ़ना



## Debates on Vande Mataram and Historical Context

### वंदे मातरम् पर बहस और ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- Much before the celebrations of the **150th year** of the national song, Vande Mataram, on **November 7, 2025**, one of India's leading music directors composed a song woven around the Vande Mataram tune (the album, Maa Tujhe Salaam).  
7 नवंबर 2025 को वंदे मातरम् के 150वें वर्ष के उत्सव से बहुत पहले, भारत के एक प्रमुख संगीत निर्देशक ने वंदे मातरम् की धुन पर आधारित एक गीत (एल्बम **मा तुझे सलाम**) बनाया।
- It was a song that was immensely popular.  
यह गीत अत्यधिक लोकप्रिय हुआ।
- So, why the sudden focus on Vande Mataram and a debate in Parliament which saw accusations that words of the original song were muted to appease certain sections, and that all this amounted to a betrayal by the Congress?  
तो फिर अचानक वंदे मातरम् पर ध्यान क्यों और संसद में बहस क्यों, जिसमें आरोप लगाए गए कि मूल गीत के कुछ शब्द **कुछ वर्गों को खुश करने** के लिए हटाए गए, और यह सब कांग्रेस द्वारा **विश्वासघात** जैसा है?
- The so-called 'mutilation' of the song was part of an **official resolution** of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Calcutta on **October 30, 1937**.  
गीत का कथित **विकृतिकरण 30 अक्टूबर 1937** को **सीडब्ल्यूसी बैठक** के आधिकारिक प्रस्ताव का हिस्सा था।
- The CWC meeting had **Jawaharlal Nehru** chairing the session and stalwarts such as **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhulabhai Desai, Jamnalal Bajaj, Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Pattabi Seetharamiah, Rajaji, Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan, Subhas Chandra Bose** in attendance.  
इस बैठक में अध्यक्ष **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** थे और **सरदार पटेल, राजेंद्र प्रसाद, मौलाना आज़ाद, भूलाभाई देसाई, जमनालाल बजाज, आचार्य कृपलानी, पत्ताभि सीतारमैया, राजाजी, आचार्य नरेंद्र देव, जयप्रकाश नारायण, सुभाष चंद्र बोस** सहित अनेक दिग्गज उपस्थित थे।

## The sense of the meeting

### बैठक का भाव

- Though Mahatma Gandhi was not a CWC member, he was a **special invitee** and was finalising the resolution moved by **Rajendra Prasad** and seconded by **Sardar Patel**.  
महात्मा गांधी CWC के सदस्य नहीं थे, लेकिन वे **विशेष आमंत्रित** थे और **राजेंद्र प्रसाद** द्वारा प्रस्तावित तथा **सरदार पटेल** द्वारा अनुमोदित प्रस्ताव को अंतिम रूप दे रहे थे।
- The resolution was **unanimous**.  
प्रस्ताव **सर्वसम्मति** से पारित हुआ।
- The Working Committee noted that Vande Mataram had evoked **deep enthusiasm** and **powerful sentiment** in the freedom struggle and had a **unique place** in the national movement.  
कार्यसमिति ने कहा कि वंदे मातरम् ने स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में **गहरी भावनाएँ** और **उत्साह** जगाया और राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन में इसका **विशिष्ट स्थान** है।
- The Committee recognised **valid objections** raised by **Muslim friends** against certain parts of the song.  
समिति ने गीत के कुछ अंशों पर **मुस्लिम समुदाय** द्वारा **उठाई गई आपत्तियों** को **वाजिब** माना।
- The Committee concluded that only the **first two stanzas** should be adopted as the **National Song** for Congress and other public bodies.  
समिति ने निर्णय लिया कि केवल **पहले दो स्तोत्र** कांग्रेस और अन्य सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रमों में **राष्ट्रीय गीत** के रूप में गाए जाएँ।
- These two stanzas were **not objectionable** to any community and contained the **essence of the song**.  
ये दोनों स्तोत्र सभी समुदायों के लिए **आपत्तिहीन** थे और गीत का **सार** समाहित करते थे।
- The Committee recommended that the version and music prepared by **Rabindranath Tagore** should be followed.  
समिति ने सिफारिश की कि **रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर** द्वारा तैयार संस्करण और संगीत का पालन किया जाए।



- The Committee trusted the decision would remove **all causes of complaint** and have the **willing acceptance** of all communities.  
समिति को विश्वास था कि यह निर्णय **सभी शिकायतें दूर** करेगा और सभी समुदायों द्वारा **स्वीकार्य** होगा।
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has indirectly targeted this CWC resolution in which **Sardar Patel** was also involved.  
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से इस CWC प्रस्ताव को निशाना बनाया है जिसमें **सरदार पटेल** भी शामिल थे।
- But his critique also amounts to attacking a vast set of national leaders whose remarks on the song are being **used selectively**.  
लेकिन उनका यह रुख अनेक राष्ट्रीय नेताओं पर प्रहार जैसा है, जिनकी टिप्पणियों का **चयनात्मक उपयोग** किया जा रहा है।

### Purpose of debating this in Parliament?

#### संसद में बहस का उद्देश्य?

- Was it to reopen the issue long after the **Constituent Assembly debate**, which had sealed the matter?  
क्या यह **संविधान सभा की बहस** के बहुत बाद इस मुद्दे को फिर उठाने के लिए था, जिसने इसे पहले ही तय कर दिया था?
- Vande Mataram** was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**, published in **Bangadarshan in 1875**, and sung at the **1896 Congress session** by Tagore.  
वंदे मातरम् की रचना **बंकिम चंद्र चट्टोपाध्याय** ने की, यह **1875 में बंगदर्शन** में प्रकाशित हुआ और **1896 कांग्रेस अधिवेशन** में तैगोर द्वारा गाया गया।
- The song became the **spirit** of meetings of the national movement, with **substantial Muslim participation**.  
यह गीत राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन की बैठकों की **आत्मा** बन गया, जिसमें **मुस्लिम समुदाय की बड़ी भागीदारी** थी।

### Political context of 1935–1939

#### 1935–1939 का राजनीतिक संदर्भ

- The **1935 Government of India Act** enabled Indians to enter **Provincial Assemblies** and the **Central Legislative Assembly**.  
**भारत शासन अधिनियम 1935** ने भारतीयों को **प्रांतीय विधानसभाओं** और **केंद्रीय विधायी सभा** में प्रवेश का अवसर दिया।
- The **1937 elections** created inner-party repercussions as Congress captured many provinces and some went to the **Muslim League**.  
**1937 चुनावों** में कांग्रेस ने कई प्रांत जीते और कुछ पर **मुस्लिम लीग** का नियंत्रण रहा।
- When Congress entered power, it had to ensure **diverse culture** and decide how Vande Mataram would be sung at official functions.  
जब कांग्रेस सत्ता में आई तो उसे **बहुसांस्कृतिक सद्भाव** सुनिश्चित करना था और तय करना था कि सरकारी कार्यक्रमों में वंदे मातरम् कैसे गाया जाए।
- The **Calcutta session** became the focal point for deciding an **edited version** to ensure **pan-India appeal**.  
**कलकत्ता अधिवेशन** संपादित संस्करण तय करने का केंद्र बना ताकि उसका **सर्वभारतीय आकर्षण** बना रहे।
- References to **Hindu goddesses** in the later stanzas required sensitivity to maintain **religious unity**.  
बाद के स्तोत्रों में **हिंदू देवियों** के उल्लेख के कारण **धार्मिक एकता** के लिए संवेदनशीलता आवश्यक थी।
- This pragmatic decision helped the Congress contest elections in alliance and stay in government for **two years**.  
इस व्यावहारिक निर्णय ने कांग्रेस को गठबंधन में चुनाव लड़ने और **दो वर्षों** तक शासन में बने रहने में मदद की।
- In **1939**, **Congress ministries resigned in eight provinces**.  
**1939** में कांग्रेस मंत्रालयों ने **आठ प्रांतों** में त्यागपत्र दे दिया।



## Constituent Assembly developments

### संविधान सभा की घटनाएँ

- The Constituent Assembly of 1947 initially had 389 members — 208 Congress, 73 Muslim League, 15 others, and 93 princely states nominees.  
1947 की संविधान सभा में प्रारंभ में 389 सदस्य थे—208 कांग्रेस, 73 मुस्लिम लीग, 15 अन्य, और 93 रियासतों के सदस्य।
- After Partition, only 299 members remained, mostly from the Hindu fold.  
विभाजन के बाद केवल 299 सदस्य बचे, जिनमें अधिकांश हिंदू समुदाय से थे।
- Entry of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was possible when he was elected from Bengal Assembly by a Muslim League-dominated House.  
डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर का प्रवेश तब संभव हुआ जब वे मुस्लिम लीग प्रभावी बंगाल विधानसभा से निर्वाचित हुए।
- After Partition, he could not continue, and Nehru arranged his nomination through the Bombay Governor.  
विभाजन के बाद उनका सदस्य होना संभव नहीं था, इसलिए नेहरू ने बॉम्बे गवर्नर के माध्यम से उनका नामांकन सुनिश्चित किया।

## Making a choice

### चुनाव करना

- The Constituent Assembly also had ideas of having a national anthem for the country.  
संविधान सभा के पास देश के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय गान रखने के विचार भी थे।
- Members were made to listen to three important songs that were in contention — Vande Mataram, Sare Jahan Se Achha and Jana Gana Mana.  
सदस्यों को प्रतियोगिता में रहे तीन महत्वपूर्ण गीत सुनाए गए — वंदे मातरम्, सारे जहाँ से अच्छा और जन गण मन।
- Though secular in its meaning and set to a marching tune, Sare Jahan Se Achha was not picked as the lyricist, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, had become an ardent Pakistan supporter.  
यद्यपि अपने अर्थ में नास्तिक रूप से धर्मनिरपेक्ष और मार्चिंग धुन पर सेट है, फिर भी सारे जहाँ से अच्छा को नहीं चुना गया क्योंकि गीतकार अल्लामा मोहम्मद इकबाल एक कट्टर पाकिस्तान समर्थक बन चुके थे।
- Even after the final draft of the Constitution was adopted in 1949 in the House headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two days before the coming into force of the Constitution, in 1950, Vande Mataram was sung in the House by a group.  
यहाँ तक कि संविधान के 1949 के अंतिम प्रारूप को डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद की अध्यक्षता वाली सभा में अपनाने के बाद और संविधान के लागू होने से दो दिन पहले, 1950 में, एक समूह द्वारा वंदे मातरम् को सभा में गाया गया।
- However, Members were in favour of Jana Gana Mana, passing a resolution that it would be the National Song.  
हालाँकि, सदस्यों ने जन गण मन के पक्ष में प्रस्ताव पारित किया कि वही राष्ट्रीय गान होगा।
- The Constitution, which has 395 Articles, never referred to any national song as part of the constitutional framework.  
संविधान, जिसमें 395 अनुच्छेद हैं, ने किसी भी राष्ट्रीय गीत का संविधानिक ढाँचे के हिस्से के रूप में उल्लेख कभी नहीं किया।
- It was only in 1976, by the 42nd amendment, under Mrs. Gandhi's tenure, that a provision was introduced for a fundamental duty under Article 51A (which also had a clause obligating every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideas and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem).  
केवल 1976 में, 42वें संशोधन द्वारा, श्रीमती गांधी के कार्यकाल में, अनुच्छेद 51A के अंतर्गत एक मूल कर्तव्य का प्रावधान जोड़ा गया (जिसमें हर नागरिक को संविधान का पालन करने और उसके विचारों व संस्थाओं, राष्ट्रीय ध्वज और राष्ट्रीय गान का सम्मान करने का दायित्व भी शामिल था)।
- It was later, under the Prevention Of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971, that disrespect to the National Anthem was made a penal offence.  
बाद में, नेशनल ऑनर अपमान निवारण अधिनियम, 1971 के तहत, राष्ट्रीय गान के प्रति अवमानना को दंडनीय अपराध बनाया गया।



- The Supreme Court of India, in **Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala**, upheld the constitutional rights to freedom of religion and expression provided that actions do not disrupt public order or show disrespect to national symbols.
- It is against this background that one has to view the sudden ebullition over **Vande Mataram** with the request made by those in the ruling party to Members of Parliament to consider whether they should add a new fundamental duty under **Article 51A**, to accord the same respect to **Vande Mataram** as **Jana Gana Mana**.  
इसी पृष्ठभूमि में यह अचानक उठी हलचल देखनी चाहिए कि सत्तारूढ़ दल के कुछ लोगों ने संसद सदस्यों से अनुरोध किया है कि क्या उन्हें **अनुच्छेद 51A** के अंतर्गत एक नया मूल कर्तव्य जोड़ना चाहिए ताकि **वंदे मातरम्** को **जन गण मन** के समान सम्मान दिया जा सके।
- In **2017**, Justice **M.V. Muralidharan** of the **Madras High Court** gave a direction to the Tamil Nadu School Education Department that schools must sing **Vande Mataram** at least once a week, and crooned in offices once a month.  
**2017** में, **मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय** के न्यायमूर्ति **एम.वी. मुरलीधरन** ने तमिलनाडु विद्यालय शिक्षा विभाग को निर्देश दिया कि स्कूलों को कम से कम **सप्ताह में एक बार वंदे मातरम्** गाना चाहिए, और कार्यालयों में महीने में एक बार गुनगुनाना चाहिए।
- Noting that the song could also be played in other government and private establishments at least once in a month, the judge said that if people felt that it was too difficult to sing it in **Bengali** or in **Sanskrit**, steps could be taken to translate the song into **Tamil**.  
नोट करते हुए कि गीत को अन्य सरकारी और निजी संस्थाओं में भी कम से कम महीने में एक बार बजाया जा सकता है, न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि यदि लोग महसूस करते हैं कि इसे **बंगाली** या **संस्कृत** में गाना कठिन है, तो इसे **तमिल** में अनुवाद करने के उपाय किए जा सकते हैं।
- The **Delhi High Court** asked the Government of India to treat **Vande Mataram** on a par with the National Anthem.  
**दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** ने भारत सरकार से अनुरोध किया कि **वंदे मातरम्** को **राष्ट्रीय गान** के समकक्ष माना जाए।
- What is curious is that it was the same **Narendra Modi** government that told the court that both the National Anthem and the National Song had their sanctity and deserve equal respect.  
दिलचस्प बात यह है कि वही **नरेंद्र मोदी** सरकार थी जिसने अदालत को बताया कि राष्ट्रीय गान और राष्ट्रीय गीत दोनों की **पवित्रता** है और दोनों को समान सम्मान मिलना चाहिए।
- However, it said that the subject matter of the proceedings could never be a subject matter of a writ.  
हालाँकि सरकार ने कहा कि इस मामले की प्रक्रिया कभी **रिट** का विषय नहीं बन सकती।
- The Modi government defended its position in court against granting equal legal status to the National Song as the National Anthem by citing the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, which specifically criminalises disrupting the anthem but lacks a parallel provision for the National Song, highlighting the legal distinction.  
मोदी सरकार ने अदालत में राष्ट्रीय गीत को राष्ट्रीय गान के समान कानूनी दर्जा देने के विरुद्ध अपनी स्थिति का बचाव करते हुए **नेशनल ऑनर अपमान निवारण अधिनियम, 1971** का हवाला दिया, जो विशेष रूप से गान का उल्लंघन दंडनीय करता है परन्तु राष्ट्रीय गीत के लिए समान प्रावधान नहीं रखता, जिससे कानूनी भिन्नता स्पष्ट होती है।

## GS Paper II: Polity,

### TOPICS COVERED

11 December

1.

**Illegal immigrants will be deported, says Shah**  
**अवैध प्रवासियों को देश से बाहर किया जाएगा, शाह ने कहा**



2.	<b>Haryana doctors defy ESMA</b> हरियाणा डॉक्टर ESMA का उल्लंघन करते हैं
3.	<b>Bodoland council chief backs ST status for six communities in Assam but with a rider</b> बोड़ोलैंड परिषद प्रमुख ने असम में छह समुदायों के लिए ST दर्जे का समर्थन किया, लेकिन एक शर्त के साथ
4.	<b>SC says contempt power not 'personal armour' for judges</b> SC कहता है कि अवमानना की शक्ति न्यायाधीशों के लिए 'व्यक्तिगत कवच' नहीं है
5.	<b>A verdict that is an abdication of judicial function</b> एक निर्णय जो न्यायिक कार्य का परित्याग है

## Illegal immigrants will be deported, says Shah

Some families are generational vote chors, Home Minister says during discussion on poll reforms

Rahul asks Shah to answer question on immunity from prosecution given to Election Commissioners

Opposition wants to keep names of infiltrators in poll rolls, says Shah; Opposition stages walk out

**GS II: Polity, Citizenship**  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Democratic Alliance government will "detect, delete and deport" illegal immigrants from the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday, as the Lok Sabha witnessed a face-off during a discussion on electoral reforms, leading to an Opposition walkout.

Mr. Shah used his speech to respond to questions asked by Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi during the discussion on electoral reforms, which began on Tuesday and has largely focused on the contentious special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls announced by the Election Commission in June.

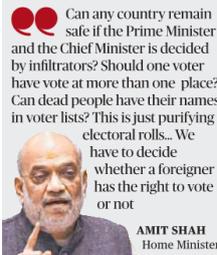
A combative Home Minister accused Mr. Gandhi of trying to spread falsehoods through his claims of "vote chori [theft]", adding that "some families" were "generational vote chors [thieves]". He also

accused Opposition parties of objecting to the SIR because they want to keep "infiltrators" on the electoral rolls.

When Mr. Shah spoke about the EC's clarifications on the LoP's allegations of malpractice in the Haryana elections, Mr. Gandhi challenged him to a debate on the allegations. The Congress leader asked the Home Minister to respond to the questions he had asked on the first day of the debate about why Election Commissioners (ECs) were granted immunity from prosecution under the 2023 law on the appointment of ECs and Chief Election Commissioners.

At this, Mr. Shah said that while he would respond to all questions raised by the LoP, nobody could dictate in which order he would speak. "I will decide the order of my topics and not him," he said.

Mr. Gandhi responded by saying that the Home Minister was defensive and looked like a worried man.



**AMIT SHAH**  
Home Minister

He later reiterated his claim outside the House after the walkout, insisting that Mr. Shah had not responded to any of his questions.

Inside the House, Mr. Shah replied that he would not be provoked, adding that vote chori actually happens when the people's mandate is defied.

**'No infiltrators'**  
Sparks flew as the Home Minister alleged that the intention of the Opposition

is to "detect, delete and deport" using constitutional provisions, he said, declaring those three words in English during a speech which was otherwise in Hindi.

Not a single word on providing digital, machine-readable, transparent voter rolls; no response on BJP leaders keeping and casting votes in multiple States; no response even on removing the CJJ from the selection process [of ECs]; absurd response on granting immunity to the EC; the excuse for not providing CCTV footage is ridiculous

**RAHUL GANDHI**  
Congress leader, in an X post

was to keep the names of foreign infiltrators in the electoral rolls.

After the Opposition walked out, Mr. Shah responded, saying: "Even if they walk out 200 times, we will not allow even a single infiltrator."

The NDA government's motto is to "detect, delete and deport" using constitutional provisions, he said, declaring those three words in English during a speech which was otherwise in Hindi.

From 1952 to 2004, no party opposed SIR as it is the process to prepare a transparent electoral roll," he said. The Opposition is fine with electoral rolls and the EC when they win elections and only have problems with them when they lose, Mr. Shah said.

Giving a list of elections lost by the BJP since 2014, he said, "We have lost more elections than we have won. We have never blamed the EC. Since 2014, we have won 44 elections and the Opposition has won 30. If the voter list is wrong, then why did you take oath?"

**'Purifying poll rolls'**  
Mr. Shah pointed out that, when the LoP is saying that voter lists are not correct and they should be corrected, the SIR is aimed at exactly that.

"Can any country remain safe if who will be the Prime Minister and who will be the Chief Minister is decided by infiltrators? Should one voter have vote at more than one place?

Can dead people have their names in voter lists? This is just purifying electoral rolls. I agree that some political parties would be affected with this," he said. "We have to decide whether while electing a government, a foreigner has the right to vote or not," he added.

On the issue of the Chief Justice of India not being included in the panel for the selection of the CEC and ECs as suggested by the Supreme Court, Mr. Shah pointed out that for 73 years, there was no law for appointment of ECs, and the Prime Minister would do it himself.

The law was made in 2023 when the top court said that the selection process of the ECs should be more transparent, he said. Responding to the LoP's complaint that the Opposition had only 33% share as against the government in the panel, Mr. Shah said: "At least they have that much share; in their time, we [the then-Opposition] had none."

**Illegal immigrants will be deported, says Shah**  
अवैध प्रवासियों को देश से बाहर किया जाएगा, शाह ने कहा



- The Congress leader asked the Home Minister to respond to the questions he had asked on the first day of the debate about why Election Commissioners (ECs) were granted immunity from prosecution under the 2023 law on the appointment of ECs and Chief Election Commissioners.  
The EC has a constitutional mandate to prepare clean electoral rolls under Article 326 of the Constitution, he said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि चुनाव आयोग के पास संविधान के अनुच्छेद 326 के तहत स्वच्छ मतदाता सूची तैयार करने का संवैधानिक अधिकार है।
- “The first SIR was carried out in 1952 when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister.  
पहला SIR 1952 में किया गया था जब जवाहरलाल नेहरू प्रधानमंत्री थे।
- From 1952 to 2004, no party opposed SIR as it is the process to prepare a transparent electoral roll,” he said.  
1952 से 2004 तक किसी पार्टी ने SIR का विरोध नहीं किया क्योंकि यह पारदर्शी मतदाता सूची तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- On the issue of the Chief Justice of India not being included in the panel for the selection of the CEC and ECs as suggested by the Supreme Court, Mr. Shah pointed out that for 73 years, there was no law for appointment of ECs, and the Prime Minister would do it himself.  
सीईसी और ईसी की नियुक्ति के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा सुझाए गए पैनल में भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश को शामिल न किए जाने के मुद्दे पर शाह ने बताया कि 73 वर्षों तक चुनाव आयुक्तों की नियुक्ति के लिए कोई कानून नहीं था, और प्रधानमंत्री स्वयं यह करते थे।
- The law was made in 2023 when the top court said that the selection process of the ECs should be more transparent, he said.

## Haryana doctors defy ESMA to go on indefinite strike seeking better promotions and wages

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau  
GURUGRAM

Despite the Haryana government invoking Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to prohibit the strike by the medical staff for six months, the government doctors on Wednesday extended their ongoing two-day strike for an indefinite period, shutting down all OPD, emergency and post-mortem services across the State. Around 3,000 doctors are taking part in the protests.

Holding the strike under the aegis of Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA), the striking doctors demanded the scrapping of direct appointment of Senior Medical Officers to provide them more promotion opportunities and four Assured Career Progression (ACP) increments at par



Patients wait in a queue at the Civil Hospital in Gurugram on Monday as Haryana government doctors intensified their strike. PTI

with the doctors in the Central government service and in States like Bihar in the fourth, ninth, 13th, and 20th year of service. They are currently paid three ACP increments in the fifth, 10th, and 15th year of service.

HCMSA president Rajesh Khyalia, SMO, Panchkula, who sat on a fast-unto-death strike along with two more doctors on Wednesday, told The Hindu ov-

er phone that both demands were agreed upon by the Chief Minister in July last year after a similar protest, but were yet to be implemented.

State Health Minister Aarti Singh Rao said the government was ready for discussion to resolve the pending and legitimate demands of the HCMSA.

She appealed to all striking doctors to join their duties.

## Haryana doctors defy ESMA हरियाणा डॉक्टर ESMA का उल्लंघन करते हैं

- Haryana doctors defy ESMA to go on indefinite strike seeking better promotions and wages  
हरियाणा के डॉक्टर बेहतर पदोन्नति और वेतन की मांग करते हुए अनिश्चितकालीन हड़ताल पर गए, ESMA की अवहेलना की।

- Despite the Haryana government invoking Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to prohibit the strike by the medical staffs for six months, the government doctors on Wednesday extended their ongoing two-day strike for an indefinite period, shutting down all OPD, emergency and post-mortem services across the State. Around 3,000 doctors are taking part in the protests.

हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा मेडिकल स्टाफ की हड़ताल को छह महीने के लिए रोकने हेतु Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) लागू करने के बावजूद, सरकारी डॉक्टरों ने बुधवार को अपनी जारी दो-दिवसीय हड़ताल को अनिश्चितकाल के लिए बढ़ा दिया, जिससे राज्य भर में सभी ओपीडी, आपातकालीन और पोस्टमॉर्टम सेवाएँ बंद रहीं। लगभग 3,000 डॉक्टर

विरोध में शामिल हैं।

- Holding the strike under the aegis of Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA), the striking doctors demanded the scrapping of direct appointment of Senior Medical Officers



to provide them more promotion opportunities and four Assured Career Progression (ACP)

## Bodoland council chief backs ST status for six communities in Assam but with a rider

GS I: Polity

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has conditionally agreed to the government granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities living in the area it governs.

"We have no objection if the six communities are granted ST status, but there should not be any sub-categorisation," Hagrama Mohilary, the head of BTC, said after chairing a high-level meeting on Wednesday.

The six communities are Adivasis (also known as Tea Tribes), Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai Ahom. Some of these communities are considerably populous in the five districts that the



No objection to ST tag for six communities but there should not be any sub-categorisation, said BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary. FILE PHOTO

BTC administers.

Mr. Mohilary said the ST (Plain), ST (Hill), and ST (Valley) sub-categories, suggested by the Group of Ministers in its report tabled in the 126-member Assembly on November 29, should not apply to areas under the BTC. "We will formally communicate our stand to the Centre and the

Registrar General of India," he said. Earlier, he said there should be no problem with the ST tag for more communities if it does not eat into the rights and privileges of the existing tribes.

**Under pressure**

He has been under pressure from the All Bodo Stu-

dents' Union and other tribal organisations for the council's stand on the issue.

On Tuesday, leaders of the All Tai Ahom Students' Union reviewed the ministerial report on the ST tag for six communities and decided to analyse the new category of recommended tribes – ST (Valley).

"This category must be analysed carefully before we arrive at any conclusion. The recommendations could impact the social, cultural, and political rights of future generations," union leader Basanta Gogoi said.

He said community members should not rush into accepting or rejecting the proposal without first understanding its implications.

increments at par with the doctors in the Central government service and in States like Bihar in the fourth, ninth, 13th, and 20th year of service.

**Bodoland council chief backs ST status for six communities in Assam but with a rider**

बोड़ोलैंड परिषद प्रमुख ने असम में छह समुदायों के लिए ST दर्जे का समर्थन किया, लेकिन एक शर्त के साथ



- Bodoland council chief backs ST status for six communities in Assam but with a rider बोड़ोलैंड परिषद प्रमुख ने असम में छह समुदायों के लिए **ST दर्जा** देने का समर्थन किया, लेकिन एक शर्त रखी।
- **Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** has conditionally agreed to the government granting Scheduled Tribe (**ST**) status to six communities living in the area it governs. असम की बोड़ोलैंड टेरिटरियल काउंसिल (**BTC**) ने अपनी सीमा के भीतर रहने वाले छह समुदायों को **अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST)** का दर्जा देने पर शर्तों के साथ सहमति व्यक्त की है।
- "We have no objection if the six communities are granted ST status, but **there should not be any sub-categorisation**," Hagrama Mohilary, the head of BTC, said after chairing a high-level meeting on Wednesday. BTC प्रमुख **हग्रामा मोहिलारी** ने बुधवार को एक उच्चस्तरीय बैठक की अध्यक्षता करने के बाद कहा, "हमें इन छह समुदायों को **ST दर्जा** देने पर कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, लेकिन **उप-श्रेणीकरण** नहीं होना चाहिए।"
- The **six communities are Adivasis (also known as Tea Tribes), Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai Ahom**. Some of these communities are considerably populous in the five districts that the BTC administers. ये छह समुदाय **आदिवासी (टी ट्राइब्स), चुटिया, कोच-राजबोंगशी, मातक, मोरान और ताई आहोम** हैं। इनमें से कुछ समुदाय BTC द्वारा प्रशासित **पाँच जिलों** में बड़ी आबादी के रूप में मौजूद हैं।
- Mr. Mohilary said the **ST (Plain), ST (Hill), and ST (Valley) sub-categories, suggested by the Group of Ministers in its report tabled in the 126-member Assembly on November 29, should not apply to areas under the BTC**. मोहिलारी ने कहा कि मंत्रियों के समूह द्वारा **29 नवंबर** को 126 सदस्यीय विधानसभा में प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में सुझाई गई **ST (Plain), ST (Hill) और ST (Valley)** उप-श्रेणियाँ BTC क्षेत्र पर लागू नहीं होनी चाहिए।
- "We will formally communicate our stand to the Centre and the Registrar General of India," he said. Earlier, he said there should be no problem with the ST tag for more communities if it does not eat into the rights and privileges of the existing tribes. उन्होंने कहा, "हम अपने रुख को औपचारिक रूप से **केंद्र और भारत के महा-पंजीयक** को सूचित करेंगे।" इससे पहले उन्होंने कहा था कि यदि नए समुदायों को ST दर्जा देने से **मौजूदा जनजातियों** के अधिकारों पर प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है, तो इसमें कोई समस्या नहीं है।

### Under pressure दबाव में

- He has been under pressure from the **All Bodo Students' Union** and other tribal organisations for the council's stand on the issue. इस मुद्दे पर परिषद के रुख को लेकर उन पर **ऑल बोडो स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन** और अन्य जनजातीय संगठनों का दबाव रहा है।
- On Tuesday, leaders of the **All Tai Ahom Students' Union** reviewed the ministerial report on the ST tag for six communities and decided to analyse the new category of recommended tribes — **ST (Valley)**. मंगलवार को **ऑल ताई आहोम स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन** के नेताओं ने छह समुदायों के लिए ST दर्जे पर मंत्री समूह की रिपोर्ट की समीक्षा की और सुझाई गई नई श्रेणी — **ST (Valley)** — का विश्लेषण करने का फैसला किया।
- "This category must be analysed carefully before we arrive at any conclusion. The recommendations could impact the social, cultural, and political rights of future generations," union leader **Basanta Gogoi** said. संगठन के नेता **बसन्ता गोगोई** ने कहा, "किसी भी निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचने से पहले इस श्रेणी का **सावधानीपूर्वक विश्लेषण** करना आवश्यक है। ये सिफारिशें आने वाली पीढ़ियों के **सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक अधिकारों** को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।"
- He said community members should not rush into accepting or rejecting the proposal without first understanding its implications. उन्होंने कहा कि समुदाय के सदस्यों को इसके **प्रभावों को समझे बिना** प्रस्ताव को जल्दबाज़ी में स्वीकार या खारिज नहीं करना चाहिए।



# SC says contempt power not 'personal armour' for judges

GS II: Polity

**Aaratrika Bhaumik**

NEW DELHI

Observing that the power to punish for criminal contempt is not a "personal armour" for judges to stifle criticism, the Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside an April 23 order of the Bombay High Court that had held a Navi Mumbai woman guilty of criminal contempt and sentenced her to one week's simple imprisonment for circulating a housing society notice referring to judges as part of a "dog mafia."

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta noted that the woman had expressed unconditional remorse at the earliest stage and had tendered an unqualified apology for her conduct.

"In exercise of contempt jurisdiction, courts must remain conscious

that this power is not a personal armour for judges, nor a sword to silence criticism. After all, it requires fortitude to acknowledge contrition for one's lapse, and an even greater virtue to extend forgiveness to the erring", the ruling said.

The judges further observed that a holistic reading of Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (1971 Act), makes it clear that the provision not only authorises the imposition of punishment but also expressly preserves the court's power to remit it. This discretion, the Bench underscored, survives even after a finding of guilt and the award of punishment.

"The statutory scheme is thus clear, once repentance is demonstrated, the court may act with magnanimity. However, the apology must satisfy the judi-

cial conscience of the court, which is required to exercise this discretion judiciously", it said.

Earlier, the High Court had taken *suo motu* cognisance of a circular issued in January by the woman, Vineeta Srinandan, cultural director of Mumbai's Seawoods Estates Limited, noting that the remarks it contained were intended to obstruct the administration of justice and interfere with the due course of judicial proceedings.

It held that the circular carried "serious insinuations" against judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court, and rejected Ms. Srinandan's contention that she was unaware of the implications of issuing such remarks. It had declined to accept her apology, finding that it did not demonstrate contrition or genuine remorse.

## SC says contempt power not 'personal armour' for judges

### SC कहता है कि अवमानना की शक्ति न्यायाधीशों के लिए 'व्यक्तिगत कवच' नहीं है

- SC says contempt power not 'personal armour' for judges  
SC कहता है कि अवमानना की शक्ति न्यायाधीशों के लिए 'व्यक्तिगत कवच' नहीं है
- Observing that the power to punish for **criminal contempt** is not a "personal armour" for judges to stifle criticism, the **Supreme Court** on Wednesday **set aside an April 23 order of the Bombay High Court** that had held a **Navi Mumbai** woman guilty of criminal contempt and sentenced her to one week's simple imprisonment for circulating a housing society notice referring to judges as part of a "dog mafia."  
यह देखते हुए कि **आपराधिक अवमानना** की सज़ा देने की शक्ति न्यायाधीशों के लिए आलोचना को दबाने का "व्यक्तिगत कवच" नहीं है, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने बुधवार को **23 अप्रैल के बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट** के आदेश को रद्द कर दिया, जिसने **नवी मुंबई** की एक महिला को आपराधिक अवमानना का दोषी ठहराया था और उसे एक सप्ताह के सरल कारावास की सज़ा दी थी क्योंकि उसने एक हाउसिंग सोसायटी नोटिस प्रसारित किया था जिसमें न्यायाधीशों को "डॉग माफिया" का हिस्सा बताया गया था।
- A Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath** and **Sandeep Mehta** noted that the woman had expressed unconditional remorse at the earliest stage and had tendered an unqualified apology for her conduct.  
न्यायमूर्ति **विक्रम नाथ** और **संदीप मेहता** की पीठ ने नोट किया कि महिला ने प्रारंभिक चरण में बिना शर्त पछतावा व्यक्त किया था और अपने आचरण के लिए बिना शर्त माफी दी थी।
- "In exercise of contempt jurisdiction, courts must remain conscious that this power is not a personal armour for judges, nor a sword to silence criticism. After all, it requires fortitude to acknowledge contrition for one's lapse, and an even greater virtue to extend forgiveness to



the erring”, the ruling said.

फैसले में कहा गया, “अवमानना अधिकार क्षेत्र का प्रयोग करते समय अदालतों को यह सचेत रहना चाहिए कि यह शक्ति न्यायाधीशों के लिए व्यक्तिगत कवच नहीं है, और न ही आलोचना को चुप कराने की तलवार है। आखिरकार, अपनी गलती स्वीकार करने के लिए धैर्य की आवश्यकता होती है, और गलती करने वाले को क्षमा देने के लिए उससे भी बड़ा सद्गुण चाहिए।”

- The judges further observed that a holistic reading of **Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (1971 Act)**, makes it clear that the provision not only authorises the imposition of punishment but also expressly preserves the court’s power to remit it.

न्यायाधीशों ने आगे देखा कि **अदालतों की अवमानना अधिनियम, 1971** की धारा 12 का समग्र अध्ययन यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह प्रावधान न केवल सज़ा देने का अधिकार देता है बल्कि अदालत को सज़ा माफ करने की शक्ति भी स्पष्ट रूप से सुरक्षित रखता है।

- This discretion, the Bench underscored, survives even after a finding of guilt and the award of punishment.

पीठ ने रेखांकित किया कि यह विवेकाधिकार दोष सिद्ध होने और सज़ा दिए जाने के बाद भी बना रहता है।

- “The statutory scheme is thus clear, once repentance is demonstrated, the court may act with **magnanimity**. However, the apology must satisfy the judicial conscience of the court, which is required to exercise this discretion judiciously”, it said.

उन्होंने कहा, “कानूनी ढांचा स्पष्ट है, एक बार पश्चाताप प्रदर्शित हो जाए, तो अदालत उदारता दिखा सकती है। हालांकि, माफी अदालत के न्यायिक विवेक को संतुष्ट करनी चाहिए, जिसे इस विवेकाधिकार का विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग करना होता है।”

- Earlier, the **High Court** had taken **suo motu** cognisance of a circular issued in January by the woman, **Vineeta Srinandan**, cultural director of Mumbai’s **Seawoods Estates Limited**, noting that the remarks it contained were intended to obstruct the administration of justice and interfere with the due course of judicial proceedings.

इससे पहले, **हाई कोर्ट** ने महिला द्वारा जनवरी में जारी किए गए एक सर्कुलर का **स्वतः संज्ञान (suo motu)** लिया था। महिला **वीनेटा श्रीनंदन**, मुंबई की **सीवुड्स एस्टेट्स लिमिटेड** की सांस्कृतिक निदेशक थीं। कोर्ट ने कहा कि सर्कुलर में दिए गए remarks न्याय प्रशासन में बाधा डालने और न्यायिक कार्यवाही के क्रम में हस्तक्षेप करने के उद्देश्य से थे।

- It held that the circular carried “serious insinuations” against judges of the High Court and the **Supreme Court**, and rejected Ms. Srinandan’s contention that she was unaware of the implications of issuing such remarks. It had declined to accept her apology, finding that it did not demonstrate contrition or genuine remorse.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि सर्कुलर में हाई कोर्ट और **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के न्यायाधीशों के खिलाफ “गंभीर आरोप” थे, और सुश्री श्रीनंदन का यह दावा खारिज कर दिया कि वह ऐसे remarks जारी करने के परिणामों से अनजान थीं। अदालत ने उनकी माफी स्वीकार करने से इनकार कर दिया, यह पाते हुए कि उसमें न तो पछतावा था और न ही वास्तविक खेद।



## A verdict that is an abdication of judicial function

GS II Polity

MOB

The judgment of the Supreme Court in the 16th Presidential Reference has been criticised and praised in equal measure, with the repercussions from this verdict analysed threadbare. The core issue concerns the fixing of timelines to the functions of high constitutional authorities. While the reasoning in the judgment signals judicial deference to the written constitutional language, it also comes across as an abdication of the ultimate judicial function: to interpret the Constitution in accordance with the changing times. Such hesitation does not bode well for a court that is endowed with tremendous constitutional powers of judicial review.

It is common knowledge that the Constitution of India is silent when it comes to prescribing timelines for the actions contemplated to be exercised by various authorities such as the President of India, Governors of States and Speakers of the Houses. Take the case of Speakers – in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies: among other duties, they are mandated to perform the role of a quasi-judicial tribunal to decide the defection of elected members. This power is provided under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, but there is no timeline specified for completion of defection proceedings.

### An anomaly

This gives rise to a constitutional anomaly. While the term of the Assembly and Parliament is fixed as five years, the non-stipulation of a time-period for deciding a defection petition means that, theoretically, the tenure of the elected member could expire without the member ever facing the lawful consequence for committing the wrong of defection.

In the recent past, this anomaly has played itself out in a number of States, thereby



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The hesitation of the top court to mandate or develop a time-frame for constitutional functionalities will impinge on constitutional morality

effectively defeating the very ideals that led to the inclusion of the anti-defection law.

Similarly, the actions of Governors in withholding the legislative businesses have led to a number of disputes. This surely could not have been the intent of the Constitution or its drafters in providing for gubernatorial functions. The question here is not whether Governors have the power to return the Bills to the Government for reconsideration. It is whether Governors can sit on duly passed legislative business without any regard for time and effectively nullify a validly enacted law. The answer is in the negative. Only constitutional courts have been granted the power to strike down legislative and executive actions if they are found to be *ultra vires*.

### The irony in the verdict

Ironically, the verdict in the Presidential Reference leans in favour of not imposing any timelines. The judgment argues that the constitutional design did not include or prescribe any timeline in Article 200, and therefore discourages any such stipulation for constitutional functionalities. This has the effect of upholding the actions of Governors in practically blocking the laws passed by elected State Assemblies. This amounts to more than just ceding of their judicial review powers to the Governors. It fails to apprehend how the Constitution can be thwarted to achieve ends that are inimical to its own founding ideals. In this regard, the Court ought to have interpreted the silence within the Constitution in a manner that would have safeguarded its morality.

Speaking on November 4, 1948, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made his now famous plea for constitutional morality to be imbibed into the foundational document of the soon-to-be Republic and ultimately, be diffused among its

citizens. This speech and its reference to the doctrine of constitutional morality have gained in judicial significance in the recent past. Landmark progressive judgments in the cases dealing with the entry of women into Sabarimala Temple and around LGBTQIA+ rights have borrowed this concept heavily to interpret the constitutional text in a manner that is in line with public conscience.

### A pointer

Dr. Ambedkar's plea for constitutional morality came coupled with a strongly worded advisory for future courts. He explained how a "form of administration has a close connection with the form of the Constitution". He warned that it would be possible to pervert the Constitution by merely changing the form of administration. The practice of Speakers not ruling on defections and Governors sitting on Bills beyond the tenure of the Assembly are textbook examples of constitutional perversion.

The question of how much detail could be added into the Constitution certainly weighed heavily on Dr. Ambedkar's mind for he considered that there was a risk of omitting the details of administration from the document and leaving it to legislatures. However, he trusted successive generations of the Republic and its courts to ensure that the founding principles were not compromised.

Seen whichever way, the hesitation of the Court to mandate or develop a time-frame for constitutional functionalities can only lead to self-defeating outcomes. Such repercussions are likely to defeat the founding ideals of the Constitution itself. It is, also, a timely reminder of how the principles of constitutional morality – as envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar – have still to diffuse sufficiently amongst us.

## A verdict that is an abdication of judicial function

### एक निर्णय जो न्यायिक कार्य का परित्याग है

### Supreme Court judgment and timelines

#### सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय और समय-सीमाएँ

- The judgment of the **Supreme Court** in the **16th Presidential Reference** has been criticised and praised in equal measure, with the repercussions from this verdict analysed threadbare. **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 16वें प्रेसिडेंशियल रेफरेंस में दिए गए निर्णय की समान रूप से आलोचना और प्रशंसा हुई है, और इस फैसले के प्रभावों का बारीकी से विश्लेषण किया गया है।**
- The **core issue concerns the fixing of timelines to the functions of high constitutional authorities.**  
मूल मुद्दा उच्च संवैधानिक अधिकारियों के कार्यों के लिए **समय-सीमाओं** के निर्धारण से संबंधित है।
- While the reasoning in the judgment signals **judicial deference** to the written constitutional language, **it also comes across as an abdication of the ultimate judicial function: to interpret the Constitution in accordance with the changing times.**  
जहाँ इस निर्णय में लिखित संवैधानिक भाषा के प्रति **न्यायिक आदर** दिखाई देता है, वहीं यह सर्वोच्च न्यायिक कर्तव्य — बदलते समय के अनुरूप संविधान की व्याख्या करने — से एक प्रकार का **परित्याग** भी प्रतीत होता है।
- Such hesitation does not bode well for a court that is endowed with tremendous constitutional powers of **judicial review.**  
इस तरह की हिचकिचाहट उस अदालत के लिए शुभ नहीं है जिसे व्यापक संवैधानिक शक्तियाँ अर्थात् **ज्यूडिशियल रिव्यू** प्रदान की गई हैं।
- It is common knowledge that the **Constitution of India** is silent when it comes to prescribing timelines for the actions contemplated to be exercised by various authorities such as the **President of India, Governors of States and Speakers of the Houses.**  
यह सामान्य ज्ञान है कि **भारत का संविधान** उन विभिन्न प्राधिकरणों जैसे **भारत के राष्ट्रपति, राज्यों के राज्यपाल और सभाओं के स्पीकर** द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों के लिए समय-सीमाएँ निर्धारित करने के संदर्भ में मौन है।



- Take the case of **Speakers** — in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies: among other duties, they are mandated to perform the role of a **quasi-judicial tribunal to decide the defection of elected members**.  
स्पीकरों के मामले को लें — संसद और विधानसभाओं में: अन्य कर्तव्यों के साथ-साथ उन पर निर्वाचित सदस्यों के देशद्रोह/पार्टी छोड़ने के मामलों का निर्णय करने हेतु एक **क्वासी-न्यायिक** अधिकरण की भूमिका निभाने का दायित्व है।
- This power is provided under the **Tenth Schedule** to the Constitution, but there is no timeline specified for completion of defection proceedings.  
यह शक्ति संविधान की **दसवीं अनुसूची** के तहत प्रदान की गई है, परंतु देशद्रोह/पार्टी छोड़ने की कार्यवाही पूरी करने के लिए कोई **समय-सीमा** निर्दिष्ट नहीं है।

## An anomaly एक विसंगति

- This gives rise to a constitutional anomaly.  
इससे एक संवैधानिक **विसंगति** उत्पन्न होती है।
- While the term of the Assembly and Parliament is fixed as **five years**, the non-stipulation of a time-period for deciding a defection petition means that, theoretically, the tenure of the elected member could expire without the member ever facing the lawful consequence for committing the wrong of defection.  
जहाँ विधान सभा और संसद की अवधि **पाँच वर्ष** निर्धारित है, वहीं देशद्रोह याचिका के निपटारे के लिए समय-सीमा न होने का अर्थ यह है कि सैद्धान्तिक रूप से निर्वाचित सदस्य की अवधि समाप्त हो सकती है बिना उसे देशद्रोह के वैधानिक परिणामों का सामना करना पड़े।
- In the recent past, this anomaly has played itself out in a number of States, thereby effectively defeating the very ideals that led to the inclusion of the **anti-defection law**.  
हाल के समय में यह विसंगति कई राज्यों में दृष्टिगत रही है, जिससे वह सिद्धांत जो **एंटी-डिफेक्शन कानून** के समावेश का कारण बने थे, प्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रभावित हुए हैं।
- Similarly, the actions of **Governors** in withholding the legislative business have led to a number of disputes.  
इसी प्रकार, विधान व्यवसाय को रोक कर **राज्यपालों** की कार्यवाहियों ने कई विवादों को जन्म दिया है।
- This surely could not have been the intent of the Constitution or its drafters in providing for gubernatorial functions.  
यह निश्चित रूप से संविधान या उसके मसौदा तैयार करने वालों का आशय नहीं हो सकता कि राज्यपालीय कार्यों के प्रावधान ऐसे समस्याग्रस्त नतीजे दें।
- The question here is not whether Governors have the power to return the Bills to the Government for reconsideration.  
यहाँ प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि क्या राज्यपालों के पास बिलों को पुनर्विचार के लिए सरकार को लौटाने की **शक्ति** है।
- It is whether Governors can sit on duly passed legislative business without any regard for time and effectively nullify a validly enacted law.  
बात यह है कि क्या राज्यपाल बिना किसी **समय ध्यान** के विधिवत पारित विधान व्यवसाय पर बैठे रह सकते हैं और प्रभावशील रूप से किसी वैध रूप से पारित कानून को **रद्द** कर सकते हैं।
- The answer is in the negative.  
उत्तर नकारात्मक है।
- Only constitutional courts have been granted the power to strike down legislative and executive actions if they are found to be **ultra vires**.  
केवल संवैधानिक अदालतों को वह शक्ति दी गई है कि वे विधायी और कार्यकारी कार्यवाहियों को **अल्ट्रा वायर्स** पाए जाने पर रद्द कर सकें।

## The irony in the verdict निर्णय का विडंबनापूर्ण पक्ष

- Ironically, the verdict in the Presidential Reference leans in favour of not imposing any timelines.  
विडंबना यह है कि **प्रेसिडेंशियल रेफरेंस** के इस निर्णय में किसी भी **समय-सीमा** को लागू करने के पक्ष में झुकाव दिखाई देता है।



- The judgment argues that the constitutional design did not include or prescribe any timeline in **Article 200**, and therefore discourages any such stipulation for constitutional functionaries.  
निर्णय तर्क देता है कि **अनुच्छेद 200** में किसी भी समय-सीमा का उल्लेख या निर्देश नहीं है, इसलिए संवैधानिक अधिकारियों पर ऐसी कोई सीमा लगाने से **निरुत्साहित** करता है।
- This has the effect of upholding the actions of **Governors** in practically blocking the laws passed by elected State Assemblies.  
इसका प्रभाव यह है कि यह निर्वाचित राज्य विधानसभाओं द्वारा पारित कानूनों को **व्यवहारिक रूप से रोकने** वाले राज्यपालों की कार्यवाहियों को वैधता देता है।
- This amounts to more than just ceding of their judicial review powers to the Governors.  
यह केवल अपनी **न्यायिक समीक्षा शक्तियों** को राज्यपालों को सौंपना भर नहीं है।
- It fails to apprehend how the Constitution can be thwarted to achieve ends that are inimical to its own founding ideals.  
यह समझने में विफल रहता है कि संविधान को कैसे उसके मूल आदर्शों के प्रतिकूल उद्देश्यों को साधने के लिए **विकृत** किया जा सकता है।
- In this regard, the Court ought to have interpreted the silence within the Constitution in a manner that would have safeguarded its **morality**.  
इस संदर्भ में, अदालत को संविधान की **मौनता** की व्याख्या इस प्रकार करनी चाहिए थी कि उसकी **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** सुरक्षित रहती।

### Ambedkar and Constitutional Morality अंबेडकर और संवैधानिक नैतिकता

- **Speaking on November 4, 1948, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made his famous plea for constitutional morality to be imbibed into the foundational document of the Republic.**  
**4 नवंबर 1948** को बोलते हुए डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर ने **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** को गणराज्य के मूल दस्तावेज में समाहित करने की प्रसिद्ध अपील की।
- This speech and its reference to the doctrine of constitutional morality have gained judicial significance in the recent past.  
इस भाषण और इसमें वर्णित संवैधानिक नैतिकता के सिद्धांत ने हाल के समय में **न्यायिक महत्व** अर्जित किया है।
- Landmark progressive judgments in the cases dealing with **entry of women into Sabarimala Temple** and **LGBTQIA+ rights** have relied heavily on this concept.  
**सबरीमला में महिलाओं का प्रवेश** और **LGBTQ अधिकारों** से जुड़े ऐतिहासिक प्रगतिशील निर्णयों में इस अवधारणा का भरपूर उपयोग किया गया है।
- These rulings interpreted the constitutional text in line with **public conscience**.  
इन निर्णयों ने संवैधानिक पाठ की व्याख्या **जन-चेतना** के अनुरूप की।

### Ambedkar's Warning अंबेडकर की चेतावनी

- Dr. Ambedkar's plea for constitutional morality came with a strong advisory for future courts.  
डॉ. अंबेडकर की संवैधानिक नैतिकता की अपील भविष्य की अदालतों के लिए एक सशक्त **चेतावनी** के साथ आई थी।
- He explained how a "form of administration has a close connection with the form of the Constitution".  
उन्होंने समझाया कि प्रशासन का स्वरूप संविधान के स्वरूप से गहरा संबंध रखता है।
- He warned that it would be possible to **pervert the Constitution** merely by changing the form of administration.  
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि केवल प्रशासन के स्वरूप में बदलाव लाकर संविधान को **विकृत** किया जा सकता है।
- The practice of **Speakers not ruling on defections** and **Governors sitting on Bills** beyond the Assembly's tenure are textbook examples of such perversion.  
**स्पीकरों द्वारा दलबदल मामलों पर निर्णय न लेना** और **राज्यपालों द्वारा बिलों को रोके रखना** ऐसे **संवैधानिक विकृति** के उत्तम उदाहरण हैं।



- The question of how much detail could be added into the Constitution weighed heavily on Dr. Ambedkar's mind.  
संविधान में कितना विवरण जोड़ा जा सकता है, यह प्रश्न डॉ. अंबेडकर के मन में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण था।
- He believed that omitting administrative details could be risky, but he trusted the future generations and the courts to uphold foundational principles.  
उनका मानना था कि प्रशासनिक विवरण छोड़ना जोखिमपूर्ण हो सकता है, पर उन्होंने भविष्य की पीढ़ियों और अदालतों पर भरोसा किया कि वे मूल सिद्धांतों को सुरक्षित रखेंगी।

### Consequences of Judicial Hesitation

#### न्यायिक हिचकिचाहट के परिणाम

- Seen whichever way, the hesitation of the Court to mandate or develop a **time-frame** for constitutional functionaries can only lead to self-defeating outcomes.  
किसी भी दृष्टिकोण से देखें, संवैधानिक अधिकारियों के लिए **समय-सीमा** तय करने में अदालत की हिचकिचाहट आत्म-घाती परिणामों की ओर ले जाती है।
- Such repercussions are likely to defeat the **founding ideals** of the Constitution itself.  
ऐसे परिणाम संविधान के **मूल आदर्शों** को पराजित कर सकते हैं।
- It is also a timely reminder of how the principles of **constitutional morality** — as envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar — have yet to sufficiently diffuse among us.  
यह इस बात की समयोचित याद दिलाता है कि डॉ. अंबेडकर द्वारा प्रतिपादित **संवैधानिक नैतिकता** के सिद्धांत अभी भी हमारे समाज में पर्याप्त रूप से **व्याप्त** नहीं हुए हैं।

### GS Paper II: International Relations

#### TOPICS COVERED

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| 2. | <b>Sudan civil war: Deepening humanitarian crisis</b><br>सूडान गृहयुद्ध: गहराता मानवीय संकट   |
| 3. | <b>Instability in Yemen threatens to ignite civil war and wider tensions in the Gulf</b><br>यमन में अस्थिरता गृहयुद्ध भड़काने और खाड़ी क्षेत्र में व्यापक तनाव बढ़ाने की धमकी देती है       |



# India gives tepid response to Russian push for Su-57, long-range drones and submarines

**GS II: IR**

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

Russia's latest pitch to expand defence cooperation — including offers of the Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter, long-range drones and submarines — has met with a lukewarm response from India, officials familiar with the matter said.

A senior official said that in the run-up to President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India, Moscow made repeated outreach promoting platforms such as the Geran series of kamikaze drones, submarines and aircraft.

"India didn't show much interest in the equipment offered by Russia. The Russians were expecting major movement on the sidelines of the visit



Russia's Su-57E fighter jet takes off during the inauguration of AERO INDIA 2025 in Bengaluru in February. K. MURALI KUMAR

and are still pursuing the proposals. We are very much focusing on development of indigenous products," the official said.

Despite high expectations, the much-watched defence announcements during Mr. Putin's visit did not materialise. While 19 agreements aimed at

boosting bilateral trade were signed, there was no breakthrough on collaboration involving the Su-57 or Russia's S-500 air defence system.

The restrained response comes at a time when India is driving an aggressive push towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

On Sunday in Leh, while dedicating 125 newly completed Border Roads Organisation (BRO) projects to the nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh underscored the transformation in domestic capacity.

## Paradigm shift

He highlighted that India, once heavily dependent on arms imports, now boasts a record defence production value of ₹1.51 lakh crore, up from ₹46,000 crore in 2014. Defence exports have surged from under ₹1,000 crore to nearly ₹24,000 crore in a decade. It reflects a paradigm shift.

The Geran drones — Russia's indigenised variant of Iran's Shahed-136 kamikaze drone — have played a major role in Moscow's low-cost attrition strategy in Ukraine, ena-

bling mass salvo attacks. But Indian manufacturers and services have not shown interest in acquiring them.

On October 29, the 23rd Working Group Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow. Co-chaired by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), and Andrey A. Boytsov, First Deputy Director of Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, the discussions spanned tri-service cooperation and defence R&D.

The meeting concluded with the signing of a Protocol outlining fresh areas of collaboration and mutual growth — even as big-ticket defence deals remain elusive.

## India gives tepid response to Russian push for Su-57, long-range drones and submarines

भारत ने Su-57, लंबी दूरी के ड्रोन और पनडुब्बियों के लिए रूस के दबाव पर ठंडी प्रतिक्रिया दी

- India gives tepid response to Russian push for **Su-57**, long-range drones and submarines  
भारत ने **Su-57**, लंबी दूरी के ड्रोन और पनडुब्बियों के लिए रूस के दबाव पर ठंडी प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- Russia's latest pitch to expand defence cooperation — including offers of the **Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter, long-range drones and submarines** — has met with a lukewarm response from India, officials familiar with the matter said.  
रक्षा सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए रूस का नवीनतम प्रस्ताव — जिसमें **Su-57 पाँचवीं पीढ़ी का स्टेल्थ फाइटर, लंबी दूरी के ड्रोन और पनडुब्बियाँ** शामिल हैं — इस मामले से परिचित अधिकारियों के अनुसार भारत की उदासीन प्रतिक्रिया से मिला है।
- A senior official said that in the run-up to President **Vladimir Putin's** recent visit to India, Moscow made repeated outreach promoting platforms such as the **Geran series of kamikaze drones, submarines and aircraft**.  
एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** की हालिया भारत यात्रा से पहले, मॉस्को ने **Geran श्रृंखला** के कामिकाज़े ड्रोन, पनडुब्बियों और विमानों जैसे प्लेटफार्मों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बार-बार संपर्क किया।
- "India didn't show much interest in the equipment offered by Russia. The Russians were expecting major movement on the sidelines of the visit and are still pursuing the proposals. **We are very much focusing on development of indigenous products**," the official said.  
अधिकारी ने कहा, "भारत ने रूस द्वारा पेश किए गए उपकरणों में ज़्यादा रुचि नहीं दिखाई। रूस यात्रा के दौरान बड़े कदम की उम्मीद कर रहा था और अब भी प्रस्तावों को आगे बढ़ा रहा है। हम **स्वदेशी उत्पादों** के विकास पर ही ध्यान दे रहे हैं।"
- Despite high expectations, the much-watched defence announcements during Mr. Putin's visit did not materialise. **While 19 agreements aimed at boosting bilateral trade were signed, there was no breakthrough on collaboration involving the Su-57 or Russia's S-500 air defence system.**



उच्च अपेक्षाओं के बावजूद, श्री पुतिन की यात्रा के दौरान चर्चित रक्षा घोषणाएँ साकार नहीं हुईं। द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **19 समझौते** तो हुए, लेकिन **Su-57** या रूस की **S-500 वायु रक्षा प्रणाली** पर किसी सहयोग में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई।

- The restrained response comes at a time when India is driving an aggressive push towards **self-reliance** in defence manufacturing.  
भारत की यह सीमित प्रतिक्रिया उस समय आई है जब वह रक्षा उत्पादन में **आत्मनिर्भरता** की दिशा में तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ रहा है।
- On Sunday in Leh, while dedicating **125 newly completed BRO projects** to the nation, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** underscored the transformation in domestic capacity.  
रविवार को लेह में, रक्षा मंत्री **राजनाथ सिंह** ने राष्ट्र को **BRO की 125 परियोजनाएँ** समर्पित करते हुए घरेलू क्षमता में हुए परिवर्तन पर जोर दिया।

## Paradigm shift दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव

- He highlighted that India, once heavily dependent on arms imports, now boasts a **record defence production value of ₹1.51 lakh crore**, up from **₹46,000 crore** in 2014. Defence exports have surged from under **₹1,000 crore** to nearly **₹24,000 crore** in a decade. It reflects a paradigm shift.  
उन्होंने बताया कि भारत, जो कभी हथियार आयात पर अत्यधिक निर्भर था, आज **₹1.51 लाख करोड़** का रिकॉर्ड रक्षा उत्पादन कर रहा है, जो 2014 में **₹46,000 करोड़** था। रक्षा निर्यात भी **₹1,000 करोड़** से बढ़कर लगभग **₹24,000 करोड़** हो गया है। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण **बदलाव** को दर्शाता है।
- The **Geran drones** — Russia's indigenised variant of Iran's **Shahed-136** kamikaze drone — have played a major role in Moscow's low-cost attrition strategy in Ukraine, enabling mass salvo attacks.  
**Geran ड्रोन** — रूस द्वारा ईरान के **Shahed-136** ड्रोन का स्थानीय संस्करण — यूक्रेन में मॉस्को की कम-लागत वाली रणनीति में बड़ी भूमिका निभा रहे हैं, जिससे बड़े पैमाने पर हमले संभव हुए हैं।
- But Indian manufacturers and services have not shown interest in acquiring them.  
लेकिन भारतीय निर्माताओं और सेवाओं ने इन्हें हासिल करने में रुचि नहीं दिखाई है।
- On **October 29**, the **23rd Working Group Meeting** of the India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow.  
**29 अक्टूबर** को मॉस्को में भारत-रूस अंतर-सरकारी आयोग की **23वीं कार्यसमूह बैठक** आयोजित हुई।
- Co-chaired by **Sanjeev Kumar**, Secretary (Defence Production), and **Andrey A. Boytsov**, First Deputy Director of Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, the discussions spanned tri-service cooperation and defence R&D.  
बैठक की सह-अध्यक्षता **संजीत कुमार** (रक्षा उत्पादन सचिव) और **आंद्रे ए. बॉयट्सोव** (रूसी सैन्य-तकनीकी सहयोग सेवा के प्रथम उप महानिदेशक) ने की, जिसमें तीनों सेनाओं के सहयोग और रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास पर चर्चा हुई।
- The meeting concluded with the signing of a **Protocol** outlining fresh areas of collaboration and mutual growth — even as big-ticket defence deals remain elusive.  
बैठक एक **प्रोटोकॉल** पर हस्ताक्षर के साथ समाप्त हुई, जिसमें नए सहयोग क्षेत्रों और पारस्परिक विकास का उल्लेख था — हालांकि बड़े रक्षा सौदे अब भी दूर हैं।



## Sudan civil war: Deepening humanitarian crisis

With close to 10 million people fleeing their homes, the displacement crisis in Sudan is currently the largest and fastest growing

**SSJIR**

**DATA POINT**

**Devyanshi Bihani**

**S**udan's economy has contracted sharply since the civil war broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on April 15, 2023. Its GDP, which had already been weakening, saw its steepest contraction in 2023-24, shrinking by 29% (Chart 1).

The civil war stems from a power struggle between the SAF, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo or 'Hemedti'. Tensions between the two forces (who had earlier cooperated in the removal of former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and later jointly carried out the 2021 coup) escalated over plans to integrate the RSF into the national army. Reports said both generals wanted to cling to power, unwilling to give up wealth and influence. The dispute became a nationwide conflict, splitting Sudan into zones of control: the SAF in the east and centre, including Port Sudan and parts of Khartoum, and the RSF across most of Darfur and large parts of Kordofan.

The RSF has intensified its offensive across the Kordofan region even as a recent drone strike on the town of Kalogi killed dozens of civilians, including children, according to the UN. The attack on Kalogi, an army-held area in South Kordofan, involved three strikes. A kindergarten and a hospital were hit, and a third strike was carried out as residents attempted to rescue injured children.

The strike comes at a time when the RSF is consolidating control in western Sudan and pushing deeper into the oil-rich Kordofan region, while the SAF is attempting to secure key routes linking central Sudan to the west. Analysts say the RSF's territorial gains in Darfur and Kordofan give it the basis to

run a parallel administration in the west, while the SAF retains central and eastern areas.

The escalation in Kordofan follows a major shift in the war: the fall of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, was the last SAF stronghold in the region. During the siege, the RSF encircled the city using sand berms and cut off civilian movement. Data from ACLED show nearly 400 incidents of violence targeting civilians in El Fasher and surrounding areas between April 2023 and late October 2025. More than 55% of these incidents occurred in 2025. Over 1,400 people were reported killed in the region in this period.

The humanitarian crisis remains severe. The conflict has resulted in more than 50,000 reported deaths (Chart 2). Displacement figures show that at least 9.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes as of September 2025 (Chart 3), the largest as well as the fastest growing displacement crisis globally.

Market data show how the conflict is reshaping survival conditions. In Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan, the price of sorghum remained relatively stable for nearly two decades until the conflict escalated. Recent figures show that prices have surged more than tenfold, crossing \$40 for a three kilogram measure in 2025 (Chart 4A). In El Fasher, the effect on food access has been even more extreme. By 2025, the cost of 3.5 kilograms of millet exceeded \$500 (Chart 4B).

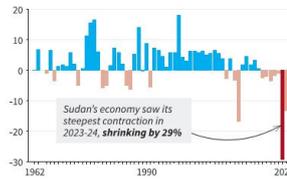
Nationwide food insecurity data shows a worsening of conditions over the past three years (Chart 5). Sudan entered famine conditions for the first time in September 2025, with 1% of the population now classified at the highest level of food insecurity. The share of the population with minimal food security came down from 47% in late 2022 to 24% in September 2025. Crisis-level food insecurity rose from 13% to 31%.

### In dire straits

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, OCHA, ACLED and IOM UN Migration



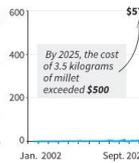
**Chart 1:** Sudan's annual GDP growth from 1962 to 2024 (figures in %)



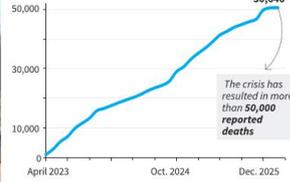
**Chart 4A:** The monthly price of Sorghum in South Kordofan/Kadugli from 2002 to 2025



**Chart 4B:** The monthly price of Millet in North Darfur/El Fasher/Al Fashir from 2002 to 2025



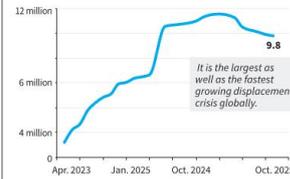
**Chart 2:** The cumulative monthly death toll due to the violence in Sudan since April 2023



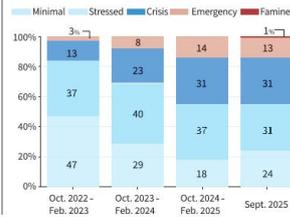
**1** Over half the violence in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, and surrounding areas since April 2023 occurred in 2025

**2** Over 1,400 people were reportedly killed in El Fasher and its surrounding regions in this period

**Chart 3:** The number of people internally displaced in Sudan since April 2023 (figures in million)



**Chart 5:** The acute food insecurity levels based on the severity of food consumption gaps (figures in %)



## Sudan civil war: Deepening humanitarian crisis

### सूडान गृहयुद्ध: गहराता मानवीय संकट

- With close to **10 million people** fleeing their homes, the displacement crisis in Sudan is currently the **largest and fastest growing** लगभग **1 करोड़ (10 million) लोग** अपने घरों से भाग रहे हैं, जिससे सूडान में विस्थापन संकट वर्तमान में सबसे बड़ा और सबसे तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ है

## Sudan's Civil War and Economic Collapse

### सूडान का गृहयुद्ध और आर्थिक पतन

- Sudan's economy has contracted sharply since the civil war broke out between the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** and the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** on **April 15, 2023**. **15 अप्रैल 2023** को **सूडानी सशस्त्र बल (SAF)** और **रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (RSF)** के बीच गृहयुद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से सूडान की अर्थव्यवस्था में तेजी से संकुचन आया है।
- Its GDP, which had already been weakening, saw its steepest contraction in **2023-24**, shrinking by **29%** (Chart 1). इसका GDP, जो पहले ही कमजोर हो रहा था, **2023-24** में सबसे अधिक गिरा और **29%** सिकुड़ गया।
- The civil war stems from a power struggle between the SAF, led by General **Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**, and the RSF, commanded by **Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo** or '**Hemedti**'. गृहयुद्ध की जड़ें **अब्देल फ़तह अल-बुर्हान** के नेतृत्व वाले SAF और **मोहम्मद हमदान दागालो ('हेमेटी')** के नेतृत्व वाली RSF के बीच सत्ता संघर्ष में हैं।



- Tensions between the two forces (who had earlier cooperated in the **removal of former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and later jointly carried out the 2021 coup**) escalated over plans to integrate the RSF into the national army.  
दोनों बलों के बीच तनाव तब बढ़ गया जब RSF को राष्ट्रीय सेना में मिलाने की योजना सामने आई, जबकि उन्होंने **2019** में **ओमर अल-बशीर** को हटाने और **2021** के तख्तापलट में साथ काम किया था।
- Reports said both generals wanted to cling to power, unwilling to give up wealth and influence.  
रिपोर्टों में कहा गया कि दोनों जनरल सत्ता, धन और प्रभाव छोड़ने को तैयार नहीं थे।
- The dispute became a nationwide conflict, splitting Sudan into zones of **control: the SAF in the east and centre, including Port Sudan and parts of Khartoum, and the RSF across most of Darfur and large parts of Kordofan.**  
विवाद एक राष्ट्रीय संघर्ष बन गया, जिसने सूडान को नियंत्रण क्षेत्रों में बाँट दिया — SAF ने **पूर्व और केंद्र** पर नियंत्रण रखा (जिसमें **पोर्ट सूडान** और **खार्तूम** के हिस्से शामिल थे), जबकि RSF ने **दारफुर** और **कॉर्डोफ़ान** के बड़े हिस्सों पर नियंत्रण किया।
- The RSF has intensified its offensive across the **Kordofan region even as a recent drone strike on the town of Kalogi** killed dozens of civilians, including children, according to the UN.  
UN के अनुसार, RSF ने **कॉर्डोफ़ान** क्षेत्र में अपना हमला तेज़ किया है, जबकि हाल ही में **कालोगी** शहर पर एक ड्रोन हमले में बच्चों सहित दर्जनों नागरिक मारे गए।
- The attack on Kalogi, an army-held area in **South Kordofan**, involved **three strikes.**  
**दक्षिण कॉर्डोफ़ान** के सेना-नियंत्रित क्षेत्र कालोगी पर इस हमले में **तीन हमले** शामिल थे।
- A kindergarten and a hospital were hit, and a third strike was carried out as residents attempted to rescue injured children.  
एक किंडरगार्टन और अस्पताल को निशाना बनाया गया, और तीसरा हमला तब हुआ जब निवासी घायल बच्चों को बचाने की कोशिश कर रहे थे।
- The strike comes at a time when the RSF is consolidating control in **western Sudan** and pushing deeper into the **oil-rich Kordofan region**, while the SAF is attempting to secure key routes linking central Sudan to the west.  
यह हमला उस समय हुआ जब RSF **पश्चिमी सूडान** में अपना नियंत्रण मजबूत कर रही है और **तेल-समृद्ध कॉर्डोफ़ान** में आगे बढ़ रही है, जबकि SAF मध्य सूडान को पश्चिम से जोड़ने वाले मार्गों को सुरक्षित करने की कोशिश कर रही है।
- Analysts say the RSF's territorial gains in **Darfur and Kordofan** give it the basis to run a **parallel administration** in the west, while the SAF retains central and eastern areas.  
विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि **दारफुर** और **कॉर्डोफ़ान** में RSF की भूमि बढ़त उसे **समानांतर प्रशासन** चलाने का आधार देती है, जबकि SAF मध्य और पूर्वी क्षेत्रों को संभाले हुए है।
- The escalation in Kordofan follows a major shift in the war: the fall of **El Fasher** after an **18-month siege.**  
कॉर्डोफ़ान में यह वृद्धि युद्ध में एक बड़े बदलाव के बाद हुई: **18 महीने की घेराबंदी** के बाद **एल फ़ाशेर** का पतन।
- El Fasher, the capital of **North Darfur**, was the last SAF stronghold in the region.  
**उत्तरी दारफुर** की राजधानी एल फ़ाशेर क्षेत्र में SAF का अंतिम गढ़ था।
- During the siege, the RSF encircled the city using **sand berms** and cut off civilian movement.  
घेराबंदी के दौरान RSF ने शहर को **रेत के बांधों** से घेर लिया और नागरिकों की आवाजाही रोक दी।
- Data from **ACLED** show nearly **400 incidents** of violence targeting civilians in El Fasher and surrounding areas between **April 2023** and **late October 2025.**  
**ACLED** के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि **अप्रैल 2023 से अक्टूबर 2025** के अंत तक एल फ़ाशेर और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में नागरिकों को निशाना बनाने वाली लगभग **400 घटनाएँ** हुईं।
- More than **55%** of these incidents occurred in **2025.**  
इनमें से **55%** से अधिक घटनाएँ **2025** में हुईं।
- Over **1,400 people** were reported killed in the region in this period.  
इस अवधि में क्षेत्र में **1,400 से अधिक लोग** मारे गए।
- The humanitarian crisis remains severe.  
मानवीय संकट गंभीर बना हुआ है।
- The conflict has resulted in more than **50,000 reported deaths** (Chart 2).  
संघर्ष के कारण **50,000 से अधिक मौतें** हुई हैं।



- Displacement figures show that at least **9.8 million people** have been forced to flee their homes as of **September 2025** (Chart 3).  
विस्थापन के आँकड़े बताते हैं कि **सितंबर 2025** तक कम से कम **98 लाख लोग** अपने घर छोड़ने को मजबूर हुए हैं।
- This is the largest and fastest-growing displacement crisis globally.  
यह वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ा और सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ता विस्थापन संकट है।
- Market data show how the conflict is reshaping survival conditions.  
बाज़ार आँकड़े दिखाते हैं कि संघर्ष ने जीवन की परिस्थितियों को कैसे बदल दिया है।
- In **Kadugli**, the capital of South Kordofan, the price of **sorghum** remained stable for nearly two decades until the conflict escalated.  
**काडुगली**, जो दक्षिण कोर्डोफ़ान की राजधानी है, में **ज्वार** की कीमतें लगभग दो दशकों तक स्थिर रहीं, जब तक संघर्ष बढ़ नहीं गया।
- Recent figures show that prices have surged **more than tenfold**, crossing **\$40** for a **three kilogram** measure in **2025** (Chart 4A).  
हाल के आँकड़े दिखाते हैं कि कीमतें **दस गुना से अधिक** बढ़ गईं और **2025** में **तीन किलोग्राम** के लिए **\$40** से ऊपर चली गईं।
- In **EI Fasher**, the effect on food access has been even more extreme.  
**एल फ़ाशेर** में खाद्य उपलब्धता पर प्रभाव और भी गंभीर रहा।
- By **2025**, the cost of **3.5 kilograms of millet** exceeded **\$500** (Chart 4B).  
**2025** तक **3.5 किलोग्राम बाजरा** की कीमत **\$500** से अधिक हो गई।
- Nationwide food insecurity data shows a worsening of conditions over the past three years (Chart 5).  
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर खाद्य असुरक्षा के आँकड़े पिछले तीन वर्षों में स्थिति के बिगड़ने को दर्शाते हैं।
- Sudan entered **famine conditions** for the first time in **September 2025**, with **1%** of the population now classified at the highest level of food insecurity.  
सूडान **सितंबर 2025** में पहली बार **दुर्भिक्ष स्थिति** में प्रवेश कर गया, जहाँ **1%** आबादी को खाद्य असुरक्षा के सबसे ऊँचे स्तर पर वर्गीकृत किया गया।
- The share of the population with minimal food security came down from **47%** in late **2022** to **24%** in **September 2025**.  
**2022** के अंत में न्यूनतम खाद्य सुरक्षा वाली आबादी **47%** थी, जो **सितंबर 2025** तक घटकर **24%** हो गई।
- Crisis-level food insecurity rose from **13%** to **31%**.  
संकट-स्तर की खाद्य असुरक्षा **13%** से बढ़कर **31%** हो गई।



# Instability in Yemen threatens to ignite civil war and wider tensions in the Gulf

UAE-backed separatist group Southern Transitional Council has seized Hadramout and Mahra, shattering the relative calm since the 2022 stalemate; their move unsettles Saudi Arabia, which had reached a mutual-attack freeze with the Houthis, while the Emirates emerges as the main beneficiary

## NEWS ANALYSIS

GS II, IR, West Asia

Associated Press  
DOHA

A separatist group has seized control of an oil-rich region in southern Yemen, shattering a relative calm in the country's stalemated civil war — a significant move in a country located along a key international trade route that also threatens to bring new risks to the Persian Gulf region.

The secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) a group backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this month seized most of the provinces of Hadramout and Mahra, including oil facilities.

Yemen has been mired for more than a decade in a civil war that involves a complex interplay of sectarian grievances and the involvement of regional powers.

The Iran-aligned Houthi control the most populous regions of the country, including the capital Sanaa. Meanwhile, a loose regional coalition of powers — including Saudi Arabia and the UAE — has backed the internationally recognised government in the south.

The war has created a

humanitarian crisis and shattered the economy. Still, since 2022, violence has gradually declined as the sides reached something of a stalemate in the war.

The move by the UAE-backed separatists upends the political arrangement among the anti-Houthi partners.

The war in Yemen began in 2014, when the Houthis marched from their northern stronghold of Saada. They took the capital, Sanaa, and forced the internationally recognised government into exile. Saudi Arabia and the UAE entered the war the following year in an attempt to restore the government.

### STC and other groups

The new fighting pits the STC against the forces of the internationally recognised government and its allied tribes, even as they are both members of the camp fighting against the Houthi rebels in the country's broader civil war.

The STC is the most powerful group in southern Yemen, with crucial financial and military support from the UAE. It was established in April 2017 as an umbrella organisation for groups that seek to restore South Yemen as an independent state, as it was



Supporters of the STC, which wants to revive an independent South Yemen, wave the old South Yemen flag at a rally in Aden. AFP

between 1967 and 1990.

The latest moves reinforced the STC positions across southern Yemen, which could give them leverage in any future talks to settle the Yemen conflict. The STC has long demanded that any settlement should give southern Yemen the right of self-determination.

The STC enjoys loyalty through much of southern Yemen. It is chaired by Aidarous al-Zubaidi, who is also Vice President of the country's Presidential Leadership Council, the ruling organ of the internationally recognised government.

The STC and other UAE-supported groups now control most of the southern half of Yemen, including crucial port cities and

islands. The other party in the latest fighting includes the Yemeni military, which reports to the internationally recognised government. They are allied with the Hadramout Tribal Alliance, a local tribal coalition supported by Saudi Arabia.

These forces are centered in Yemen's largest province of Hadramout, which stretches from the Gulf of Aden in the south to the border with Saudi Arabia in the north. The oil-rich province is a major source of fuel for the southern areas of Yemen.

Earlier this month, STC forces marched to Hadramout and took control of the province's major facilities, including PetroMasila, Yemen's largest oil compa-

ny, after brief clashes with government forces and their tribal allies.

This took place after the Saudi-backed Hadramout Tribal Alliance seized the PetroMasila oil facility in late November to pressure the government to agree to its demands for a bigger share of oil revenues and the improvement of services for Hadramout's residents.

The STC apparently seized on this move as a pretext for wresting control of Hadramout and its oil facilities for itself and expanding areas under its control in Yemen.

STC forces then marched to the province of Mahra on the borders with Oman and took control of the province. They are allied with the Hadramout Tribal Alliance, a local tribal coalition supported by Saudi Arabia.

Saudi troops also withdrew earlier this month from bases in Aden, a Yemeni government official said. The withdrawal was part of a Saudi "repositioning strategy," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter.

Saudi Arabia sent a delegation to Hadramout to meet with the province's governor and other politi-

cal and tribal leaders in efforts to tamp down tensions.

Major General Mohammed al-Qahtani, the Saudi delegation's chairman, said in video comments that his government "rejects any attempts to impose a fait accompli," in Hadramout.

The escalation shattered the relative quiet in Yemen's war, which has been stalemated in recent years after the Houthis reached a deal with Saudi Arabia that stopped their attacks on the kingdom in return for ceasing the Saudi-led strikes on their territories.

Ahmed Nagi, a senior Yemen analyst at the International Crisis Group, said Saudi Arabia appeared "deeply dissatisfied" with the STC's latest move.

"The UAE has gone beyond the Saudi-led arrangements," he said. "The UAE seems to be the main winner, expanding its influence in the Yemeni crisis."

The UAE, meanwhile, insisted that its approach was in line with Saudi Arabia's goal of "supporting a political process" to settle the multi-layer conflict in Yemen. It said the country's governance and territorial integrity is "an issue that must be determined by the Yemeni parties themselves."

## Instability in Yemen threatens to ignite civil war and wider tensions in the Gulf यमन में अस्थिरता गृहयुद्ध भड़काने और खाड़ी क्षेत्र में व्यापक तनाव बढ़ाने की धमकी देती है

- UAE-backed separatist group Southern Transitional Council has seized Hadramout and Mahra, shattering the relative calm since the 2022 stalemate; their move unsettles Saudi Arabia, which had reached a mutual-attack freeze with the Houthis, while the Emirates emerges as the main beneficiary

यूएई समर्थित अलगाववादी समूह साउदर्न ट्रांज़िशनल काउंसिल ने हदरमौत और महरा पर कब्जा कर लिया है, 2022 के गतिरोध के बाद से बनी सापेक्ष शांति को तोड़ते हुए; उनके कदम से सऊदी अरब अस्थिर हुआ, जिसने हौती के साथ पारस्परिक हमलों को रोकने का समझौता किया था, जबकि इमारात मुख्य लाभार्थी के रूप में उभर रहा है

- A separatist group has seized control of an oil-rich region in southern Yemen, shattering a relative calm in the country's stalemated civil war — a significant move in a country located along a key international trade route that also threatens to bring new risks to the Persian Gulf region.

एक अलगाववादी समूह ने दक्षिणी यमन के एक तेल-संपन्न क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण कर लिया है, देश के गतिरोधग्रस्त गृहयुद्ध में बनी सापेक्ष शांति को तोड़ते हुए — एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम एक ऐसे देश में जो एक प्रमुख अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मार्ग पर स्थित है और फारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र के लिए नए जोखिम लाने की धमकी देता है

- The secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) a group backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this month seized most of the provinces of Hadramout and Mahra, including oil facilities.



अलगाववादी साउदर्न ट्रांज़िशनल काउंसिल (एसटीसी), जो संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) द्वारा समर्थित है, ने इस महीने हदरमौत और महरा के अधिकांश प्रांतों पर कब्ज़ा कर लिया, जिसमें तेल सुविधाएँ भी शामिल हैं

- Yemen has been mired for more than a decade in a civil war that involves a complex interplay of sectarian grievances and the involvement of regional powers.  
यमन एक दशक से अधिक समय से एक गृहयुद्ध में फंसा हुआ है, जिसमें संप्रदायगत शिकायतों और क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों की भागीदारी का जटिल मिश्रण शामिल है
- The **Iran-aligned Houthis** control the most populous regions of the country, including the capital Sanaa.  
**ईरान समर्थित हौथी** देश के सबसे जनसंख्या वाले क्षेत्रों को नियंत्रित करते हैं, जिसमें राजधानी सना भी शामिल है
- Meanwhile, a loose regional coalition of powers — including **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE** — has backed the internationally recognised government in the south.  
इसी दौरान, क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों का एक ढीला गठबंधन — जिसमें **सऊदी अरब** और **यूएई** शामिल हैं — दक्षिण में अंतरराष्ट्रीय मान्यता प्राप्त सरकार का समर्थन करता रहा है
- The move by the UAE-backed separatists upends the political arrangement among the anti-Houthi partners.
- The war in Yemen began in **2014**, when the Houthis marched from their northern stronghold of Saada.
- **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE** entered the war the following year in an attempt to restore the government.  
**सऊदी अरब** और **यूएई** अगले वर्ष युद्ध में शामिल हुए ताकि सरकार को बहाल किया जा सके

### STC and other groups एसटीसी और अन्य समूह

- The new fighting pits the STC against the forces of the internationally recognised government and its allied tribes, even as they are both members of the camp fighting against the Houthi rebels in the country's broader civil war.
- The STC is the most powerful group in southern Yemen, with crucial financial and military support from the **UAE**.  
एसटीसी दक्षिणी यमन में सबसे शक्तिशाली समूह है, जिसे **यूएई** से महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय और सैन्य समर्थन प्राप्त है
- It was established in **April 2017** as an umbrella organisation for groups that seek to restore South Yemen as an independent state, as it was between **1967 and 1990**.
- The STC has long demanded that any settlement should give southern Yemen the right of self-determination.  
एसटीसी लंबे समय से मांग करता रहा है कि किसी भी समझौते में दक्षिणी यमन को आत्मनिर्णय का अधिकार दिया जाना चाहिए
- The STC enjoys loyalty through much of southern Yemen.  
एसटीसी को दक्षिणी यमन के बड़े हिस्से में निष्ठा प्राप्त है
- It is chaired by **Aidarous al-Zubaidi**, who is also **Vice President** of the country's Presidential Leadership Council.  
इसके अध्यक्ष **ऐदारूस अल-जुबैदी** हैं, जो देश की राष्ट्रपति नेतृत्व परिषद के **उपाध्यक्ष** भी हैं
- The STC and other UAE-supported groups now control most of the southern half of Yemen, including crucial port cities and islands.  
एसटीसी और अन्य यूएई-समर्थित समूह अब यमन के दक्षिणी आधे हिस्से के अधिकांश भाग को नियंत्रित करते हैं, जिसमें महत्वपूर्ण बंदरगाह शहर और द्वीप शामिल हैं
- The other party in the latest fighting includes the Yemeni military, which reports to the internationally recognised government.  
ताज़ा लड़ाई में दूसरी तरफ यमनी सेना है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय मान्यता प्राप्त सरकार को रिपोर्ट करती है
- They are allied with the **Hadramout Tribal Alliance**, a local tribal coalition supported by **Saudi Arabia**.
- These forces are centered in Yemen's largest province of **Hadramout**, which stretches from the Gulf of Aden to the border with **Saudi Arabia**.  
ये बल यमन के सबसे बड़े प्रांत **हदरमौत** में केंद्रित हैं, जो अदन की खाड़ी से लेकर **सऊदी सीमा** तक फैला है



- The oil-rich province is a major source of fuel for the southern areas of Yemen.  
यह तेल-संपन्न प्रांत यमन के दक्षिणी क्षेत्रों के लिए ईंधन का एक प्रमुख स्रोत है
- Earlier this month, STC forces marched to Hadramout and took control of the province's major facilities, including **PetroMasila**, Yemen's largest oil company.
- This took place after the Saudi-backed Hadramout Tribal Alliance seized the PetroMasila oil facility in late November to pressure the government.
- STC forces then marched to the province of **Mahra** and took control of a border crossing with **Oman**.  
फिर एसटीसी बल महरा प्रांत की ओर बढ़े और ओमान के साथ सीमा चौकी पर नियंत्रण कर लिया
- In **Aden**, the UAE-backed force also seized the presidential palace.  
एडन में यूएई समर्थित बल ने राष्ट्रपति महल पर भी कब्जा कर लिया
- **Saudi troops** also withdrew earlier this month from bases in Aden as part of a "repositioning strategy".
- "The UAE seems to be the main winner, expanding its influence in the Yemeni crisis."

**GS Paper III: Economy,**

**TOPICS COVERED**

11\_12\_2025

1. **Is India's 8.2% growth rate sustainable?**  
क्या भारत की 8.2% विकास दर टिकाऊ है?
2. **PM Modi, Goyal expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact**  
पीएम मोदी, गोयल अगले सप्ताह ओमान जाने की उम्मीद, मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए
3. **Asian investors flock to Gulf debt yield, growth**  
एशियाई निवेशक खाड़ी ऋण प्रतिफल और वृद्धि की ओर आकर्षित



# Is India's 8.2% growth rate sustainable?

India's GDP surged 8.2% to ₹48.63 lakh crore, indicating strong economic momentum. However, the IMF's 'Grade C' rating warns of structural weaknesses that could threaten long-term growth amidst global volatility and internal challenges.

## GS III: Economy

### ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan  
Geetaali Malhotra

India's latest GDP figures position the Indian economy to be producing at a significantly higher level than last year, emphasised by the ₹48.63 lakh crore output projected to be realised in a single quarter.

**The general state of the economy**  
An 8.2% increase of GDP indicates that this rise is part of a genuine momentum rather than just being a post-pandemic bounce. The 9.1% growth in manufacturing indicates that industrial demand has increased and factories are operating closer to capacity. Services, now 60% of India's GDP, is growing at 9.2%, with financial services at 10.2%, which reflects strong credit activity, higher transactions, and sustained urban demand.

The increase in real Gross Value Added (GVA) numbers from ₹82.88 lakh crore to ₹89.41 lakh crore further indicates that agriculture, industry and services are experiencing genuine rise in added value and not just rise in prices.

The real numbers held up because the nominal GDP increased by 8.8%, demonstrating that inflation remained under check. Moreover, Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) rising by 7.9% show that households are spending more. Further, the growth of agriculture by 3.5%, supported by fuller reservoirs and better horticulture output, points to a small but real improvement in rural incomes.

Inflation, which had been high for much of the previous years, finally eased and even slipped below target toward the end of 2024-25. Banks experienced significant credit growth and were in a position to lend with a clean balance sheet, maintaining capital buffers which are far in excess of regulatory requirements.

On the budget front, the Centre stuck to the path of consolidation with the help of strong GST and direct tax collections and successfully managed to keep the spending mix relatively high-quality. The external sector remained stable with a small current account deficit, healthy services exports and diversified foreign exchange reserves to weather global volatility.

And so, if one were to just look at these figures, it would appear that the Indian economy is moving forward even as much of the world slows down and is eclipsed in greater economic uncertainty.

### The IMF's rating

Notwithstanding this, every headline has its shadow. Here, the shadow arrived in the form of a shocker when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that India had been assigned 'Grade C' in its recent assessment on its national income accounting. There are four grades in total: A, B, C, and D.

Some of the multiple shortcomings highlighted by the IMF team which require careful consideration and review include – a) the use of an outdated base year (2011/12); b) the use of wholesale price indices as data sources for deflators due to the lack of producer price indices; c) the excessive use of single deflation, which may introduce cyclical biases; d) sizeable discrepancies between production and expenditure approaches that may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector; e) lack of

## MCQs



## THE GIST

▼ An 8.2% increase of GDP indicates that this rise is part of a genuine momentum rather than just being a post-pandemic bounce.

▼ The RBI's Annual Report (2024-25) recognises that the economy has performed well, but it also quietly lays out the structural issues that still drag down India's credibility.

▼ The RBI cautions that India's export trajectory will continue to be impacted by growing trade protectionism, tariff uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions in key markets.

seasonally adjusted data and room for improvement in other statistical techniques used in the quarterly national accounts compilation; and f) a lack of consolidated data on States and local bodies after 2019.

This raises a critical question: how can a nation possibly be underrated when it's racing at 8% while the world limps at 3%? But the truth lives in the footnotes of our own documents.

The RBI's Annual Report (2024-25) recognises that the economy has performed well, but it also quietly lays out the structural issues that still drag down India's credibility. Countries with discretionary exercises in projecting the good alone in numbers have two narratives: the one they tell the world and the one they whisper under their own breath. India's 8.2% is the story its government wants tell the world. The IMF's C is the whisper.

An economy appearing to grow fast is not the same thing as an economy growing well. What the IMF is really saying is that India's institutional bones are not yet as strong as its muscle.

Mining output was hit by an unusually long monsoon, while electricity generation slowed because of a milder-than-usual winter that reduced heating and peak-load demand. Although these might seem like fleeting weather phenomena, they significantly undermined the industrial base of the year. The unevenness is evident even in

this strong quarter. Electricity and utilities grew only 4.4%, and mining barely moved at 0.04%. These are backbone sectors and subsequently their sluggishness signals that recovery is not evenly spread across the real economy. According to nominal GVA, the primary sector accounted for 14%, the secondary sector for 26%, and the tertiary sector for 60% in Q2.

These proportions look normal for a service-led economy, but India's case is different because its employment structure does not match its output structure: too many Indians still work in agriculture and low-wage services, sectors that contribute little to productivity gains.

### Structural vulnerabilities

The RBI cautions that India's export trajectory will continue to be impacted by growing trade protectionism, tariff uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions in key markets.

Services exports and remittances help cushion the current account, but they cannot substitute for a diversified and scaled-up goods export engine – one that India still lacks.

Another contradiction shows up in the financial markets.

The rupee looked stable from a distance, but underneath, it was constantly being pushed down by a strong U.S. dollar and the usual swings in foreign capital.

When one realises that the IMF is grading the architecture that supports

India's growth rather than the country's growth rate, its Grade C starts to make sense. A country can grow at 8% and still have structural vulnerabilities.

It can post healthy GVA numbers and still have weak institutional capacity at the State level, low labour productivity, and an export profile mismatched with global demand. GDP captures the pace of economic activity; it does not capture the quality of governance that sustains it. The true conflict is that, despite India's robust short-term economic momentum, its long-term framework is still being developed.

Even with the strong Q2 performance, broad-sector analysis shows agriculture growing only 3.5%, utilities at 4.4%, and mining barely above zero, sectors that collectively employ millions but contribute less and less to value creation.

This does not diminish the achievement of 8.2% growth. However, it makes the narrative more difficult. The IMF's grade serves as a subtle reminder to see past the quarterly glow and recognise the unresolved issues in economic structure, finance, and governance. India is leading the way. What it needs now is the depth.

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## Is India's 8.2% growth rate sustainable?

## क्या भारत की 8.2% विकास दर टिकाऊ है?

## India's Latest GDP Figures भारत के नवीनतम GDP आंकड़े

- India's latest GDP figures position the Indian economy to be producing at a significantly higher level than last year, emphasised by the **₹48.63 lakh crore** output projected to be realised in a single quarter.



भारत के नवीनतम GDP आंकड़े भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में **काफी उच्च स्तर** पर उत्पादन करते हुए दिखाते हैं, जिसे एक तिमाही में **₹48.63 लाख करोड़** के अनुमानित उत्पादन द्वारा रेखांकित किया गया है।

## The general state of the economy अर्थव्यवस्था की सामान्य स्थिति

- An **8.2%** increase of GDP indicates that this rise is part of a genuine momentum rather than just being a post-pandemic bounce.  
GDP में **8.2%** की वृद्धि संकेत देती है कि यह उछाल केवल महामारी-के-बाद की रिकवरी नहीं बल्कि वास्तविक गति का हिस्सा है।
- The **9.1%** growth in manufacturing indicates that industrial demand has increased and factories are operating closer to capacity.  
निर्माण क्षेत्र में **9.1%** की वृद्धि दर्शाती है कि औद्योगिक मांग बढ़ी है और कारखाने अपनी क्षमता के करीब कार्य कर रहे हैं।
- **Services, now 60% of India's GDP, is growing at 9.2%, with financial services at 10.2%, which reflects strong credit activity, higher transactions, and sustained urban demand.**  
सेवाएँ, जो अब भारत के GDP का **60%** हैं, **9.2%** की दर से बढ़ रही हैं, जबकि वित्तीय सेवाएँ **10.2%** की दर से, जो मजबूत क्रेडिट गतिविधि, बढ़ते लेनदेन और निरंतर शहरी मांग को दर्शाता है।
- The increase in real **Gross Value Added (GVA)** numbers from **₹82.88 lakh crore to ₹89.41 lakh crore** further indicates that agriculture, industry and services are experiencing genuine rise in added value and not just rise in prices.  
वास्तविक **GVA** में **₹82.88 लाख करोड़** से **₹89.41 लाख करोड़** की वृद्धि दर्शाती है कि कृषि, उद्योग और सेवा क्षेत्र में वास्तविक मूल्यवर्धन हुआ है, केवल कीमतों में वृद्धि नहीं।
- The real numbers held up because the nominal GDP increased by **8.8%**, demonstrating that inflation remained under check.  
वास्तविक आंकड़े टिके रहे क्योंकि नाममात्र GDP **8.8%** बढ़ा, जो दर्शाता है कि मुद्रास्फीति नियंत्रण में रही।
- Moreover, **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)** rising by **7.9%** shows that households are spending more.  
साथ ही, **PFCE** में **7.9%** की वृद्धि बताती है कि परिवार अधिक खर्च कर रहे हैं।
- Further, the growth of agriculture by **3.5%**, supported by fuller reservoirs and better horticulture output, points to a small but real improvement in rural incomes.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, कृषि में **3.5%** की वृद्धि, जो बेहतर जलाशयों और बागवानी उत्पादन से समर्थित है, ग्रामीण आय में छोटे लेकिन वास्तविक सुधार को दर्शाती है।
- Inflation, which had been high for much of the previous years, finally eased and even slipped below target toward the end of **2024-25**.  
मुद्रास्फीति, जो पिछले कई वर्षों तक ऊँची रही थी, अंततः कम हुई और **2024-25** के अंत तक लक्ष्य से भी नीचे चली गई।
- **Banks experienced significant credit growth and were in a position to lend with a clean balance sheet, maintaining capital buffers far in excess of regulatory requirements.**  
बैंकों ने उल्लेखनीय क्रेडिट वृद्धि देखी और वे स्वच्छ बैलेंस शीट के साथ ऋण देने की स्थिति में थे, साथ ही उनके पास नियामकीय आवश्यकताओं से कहीं अधिक पूँजी भंडार था।
- On the budget front, the Centre stuck to the path of consolidation with the help of strong **GST** and direct tax collections and successfully managed to keep the spending mix relatively high-quality.  
बजट के मोर्चे पर, केंद्र सरकार ने मजबूत **GST** और प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह की मदद से वित्तीय एकीकरण के मार्ग पर चलते हुए खर्च की गुणवत्ता को अपेक्षाकृत उच्च बनाए रखा।
- The **external sector remained stable with a small current account deficit, healthy services exports and diversified foreign exchange reserves to weather global volatility.**  
बाह्य क्षेत्र छोटे चालू खाता घाटे, मजबूत सेवा निर्यात और विविधीकृत विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार के साथ स्थिर बना रहा, जिससे वैश्विक अस्थिरताओं का सामना संभव हुआ।
- And so, if one were to just look at these figures, it would appear that the Indian economy is moving forward even as much of the world slows down and is eclipsed in greater economic uncertainty.



और इस प्रकार, यदि केवल इन आंकड़ों को देखा जाए, तो प्रतीत होता है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था आगे बढ़ रही है, जबकि विश्व के कई भाग धीमे हो रहे हैं और अधिक आर्थिक अनिश्चितताओं से घिरे हैं।

## The IMF's Rating IMF की रेटिंग

- Notwithstanding this, every headline has its shadow.  
इसके बावजूद, हर सुर्खी की एक परछाई होती है।
- Here, the shadow arrived in the form of a shocker when the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** announced that India had been assigned '**Grade C**' in its recent assessment on its national income accounting.  
यहाँ, परछाई एक झटके के रूप में तब आई जब IMF ने अपने हालिया राष्ट्रीय आय लेखांकन मूल्यांकन में भारत को '**ग्रेड C**' दिए जाने की घोषणा की।
- **There are four grades in total: A, B, C, and D.**  
कुल चार ग्रेड होते हैं: **A, B, C और D**।
- Some of the multiple shortcomings highlighted by the IMF team which require careful consideration and review include —  
IMF टीम द्वारा उजागर की गई कई कमियाँ, जिन पर सावधानीपूर्वक विचार और समीक्षा की आवश्यकता है, इनमें शामिल हैं —
- a) the **use of an outdated base year (2011/12)**;  
a) **पुराने आधार वर्ष (2011/12)** का उपयोग;
- b) the **use of wholesale price indices as data sources for deflators due to the lack of producer price indices**;  
b) **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांकों** की कमी के कारण डिफ्लेटर के लिए **थोक मूल्य सूचकांकों** का उपयोग;
- c) the **excessive use of single deflation, which may introduce cyclical biases**;  
c) **सिंगल डिफ्लेशन** का अत्यधिक उपयोग, जो चक्रीय पूर्वाग्रह ला सकता है;
- d) **sizeable discrepancies between production and expenditure approaches that may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector**;  
d) उत्पादन और व्यय तरीकों के बीच उल्लेखनीय अंतर, जिससे **व्यय पद्धति** और **अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र** के डेटा का कवरेज बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता इंगित होती है;
- e) **lack of seasonally adjusted data and room for improvement in other statistical techniques used in the quarterly national accounts compilation**;  
e) **सीज़नली एडजस्टेड डेटा** की कमी और तिमाही राष्ट्रीय खातों में उपयोग की जाने वाली अन्य सांख्यिकीय तकनीकों में सुधार की गुंजाइश;
- f) a lack of consolidated data on **States and local bodies after 2019**.  
f) **2019** के बाद **राज्यों और स्थानीय निकायों** के समेकित डेटा की कमी।
- This raises a critical question: how can a nation possibly be underrated when it's racing at **8%** while the world limps at **3%**?  
यह एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाता है: जब देश **8%** की रफ्तार से बढ़ रहा है और दुनिया **3%** पर लड़खड़ा रही है, तब उसे कम क्यों आँका जा रहा है?
- But the truth lives in the footnotes of our own documents.  
लेकिन सच्चाई हमारे ही दस्तावेजों के फुटनोट्स में रहती है।
- The **RBI's Annual Report (2024-25)** recognises that the economy has performed well, but it also quietly lays out the structural issues that still drag down India's credibility.  
**RBI की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट (2024-25)** यह स्वीकार करती है कि अर्थव्यवस्था ने अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है, लेकिन यह चुपचाप उन संरचनात्मक समस्याओं को भी बताती है जो भारत की विश्वसनीयता को अब भी कमजोर करती हैं।
- Countries with discretionary exercises in projecting the good alone in numbers have two narratives: the one they tell the world and the one they whisper under their own breath.  
वे देश जो केवल अच्छे आंकड़ों को प्रदर्शित करने में रुचि रखते हैं, उनकी दो कथाएँ होती हैं: एक जो वे दुनिया को बताते हैं और दूसरी जो वे आहिस्ता से खुद से कहते हैं।
- India's **8.2%** is the story its government wants to tell the world.  
भारत का **8.2%** वह कहानी है जो इसकी सरकार दुनिया को बताना चाहती है।
- The IMF's **C** is the whisper.  
IMF का **C** वह फुसफुसाहट है।



- An economy appearing to grow fast is not the same thing as an economy growing well.  
एक अर्थव्यवस्था का तेज़ दिखना और उसका वास्तव में अच्छी तरह बढ़ना दोनों समान बात नहीं हैं।
- What the IMF is really saying is that **India's institutional bones are not yet as strong as its muscle.**  
IMF वास्तव में यह कह रहा है कि भारत की **संस्थागत संरचना** उसकी मांसपेशियों जितनी मजबूत नहीं है।
- **Mining output was hit by an unusually long monsoon, while electricity generation slowed because of a milder-than-usual winter that reduced heating and peak-load demand.**  
खनन उत्पादन **असामान्य रूप से लंबे मानसून** के कारण प्रभावित हुआ, जबकि बिजली उत्पादन **सामान्य से हल्की सर्दी** के कारण धीमा पड़ा।
- Although these might seem like fleeting weather phenomena, they significantly undermined the industrial base of the year.  
हालाँकि ये मौसम से जुड़े क्षणिक कारक लग सकते हैं, लेकिन इन्होंने वर्ष के औद्योगिक आधार को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया।
- The unevenness is evident even in this strong quarter.  
यह असमानता इस मजबूत तिमाही में भी स्पष्ट है।
- Electricity and utilities grew only **4.4%**, and mining barely moved at **0.04%**.  
बिजली और उपयोगिताओं की वृद्धि केवल **4.4%** रही, और खनन केवल **0.04%** बढ़ा।
- These are backbone sectors and subsequently their sluggishness signals that recovery is not evenly spread across the real economy.  
ये आधारभूत क्षेत्र हैं और इनकी सुस्ती दिखाती है कि पुनरुद्धार वास्तविक अर्थव्यवस्था में समान रूप से नहीं फैल रहा है।
- **According to nominal GVA, the primary sector accounted for 14%, the secondary sector for 26%, and the tertiary sector for 60% in Q2.**  
नाममात्र **GVA** के अनुसार, द्वितीय तिमाही में प्राथमिक क्षेत्र का योगदान **14%**, द्वितीयक का **26%**, और तृतीयक का **60%** था।
- These proportions look normal for a service-led economy, but India's case is different because its employment structure does not match its output structure: **too many Indians still work in agriculture and low-wage services, sectors that contribute little to productivity gains.**  
सेवा-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए ये अनुपात सामान्य लग सकते हैं, लेकिन भारत में स्थिति अलग है क्योंकि इसकी रोजगार संरचना उसके उत्पादन संरचना से मेल नहीं खाती: बहुत से भारतीय अभी भी कृषि और कम-वेतन वाली सेवाओं में काम करते हैं, जो उत्पादकता में कम योगदान देते हैं।

## Structural vulnerabilities

### संरचनात्मक कमजोरियाँ

- The RBI cautions that India's export trajectory will **continue to be impacted by growing trade protectionism, tariff uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions** in key markets.  
RBI चेतावनी देता है कि भारत की निर्यात प्रगति **बढ़ते व्यापार संरक्षणवाद, शुल्क अनिश्चितता, और महत्वपूर्ण बाजारों में भू-राजनीतिक तनाव** से प्रभावित होती रहेगी।
- **Services exports and remittances help cushion the current account, but they cannot substitute for a diversified and scaled-up goods export engine — one that India still lacks.**  
सेवा निर्यात और प्रेषण चालू खाते को सहारा देते हैं, लेकिन वे विविधीकृत और बड़े पैमाने के **माल निर्यात इंजन** का स्थान नहीं ले सकते — जिसका भारत में अब भी अभाव है।
- Another contradiction shows up in the financial markets.  
एक और विरोधाभास **वित्तीय बाजारों** में दिखाई देता है।
- The **rupee looked stable from a distance, but underneath, it was constantly being pushed down by a strong U.S. dollar and the usual swings in foreign capital.**  
रुपया दूर से स्थिर दिखता था, लेकिन भीतर से इसे **मजबूत अमेरिकी डॉलर और विदेशी पूंजी के उतार-चढ़ाव** लगातार नीचे धकेलते रहे।
- When one realises that the IMF is grading the architecture that supports India's growth rather than the country's growth rate, its **Grade C** starts to make sense.  
जब यह समझ आता है कि IMF भारत की वृद्धि दर नहीं, बल्कि उसकी **संरचनात्मक व्यवस्था** को ग्रेड कर रहा है, तब उसका **ग्रेड C** समझ में आने लगता है।
- A country can grow at **8%** and still have structural vulnerabilities.  
एक देश **8%** की वृद्धि कर सकता है और फिर भी उसमें **संरचनात्मक कमजोरियाँ** हो सकती हैं।



- It can post healthy GVA numbers and still have weak institutional capacity at the State level, low labour productivity, and an export profile mismatched with global demand.  
वह अच्छे GVA आँकड़े दिखा सकता है, फिर भी राज्य-स्तर की संस्थागत क्षमता, श्रम उत्पादकता, और वैश्विक मांग से असंगत निर्यात प्रोफाइल कमजोर हो सकती है।
- GDP captures the pace of economic activity; it does not capture the quality of governance that sustains it.  
GDP आर्थिक गतिविधि की गति को दर्शाता है; यह उस शासन की गुणवत्ता को नहीं दर्शाता जो इसे बनाए रखती है।
- The true conflict is that, despite India's robust short-term economic momentum, its long-term framework is still being developed.  
सच्चा विरोधाभास यह है कि भारत की कम-अवधि की मजबूत आर्थिक गति के बावजूद इसका दीर्घकालिक ढांचा अभी भी विकसित हो रहा है।
- Even with the strong Q2 performance, broad-sector analysis shows agriculture growing only 3.5%, utilities at 4.4%, and mining barely above zero, sectors that collectively employ millions but contribute less and less to value creation.  
मजबूत दूसरी तिमाही के बावजूद, क्षेत्रीय विश्लेषण दिखाता है कि कृषि केवल 3.5%, उपयोगिताएँ 4.4%, और खनन लगभग शून्य वृद्धि पर — ये वे क्षेत्र हैं जो लाखों लोगों को रोजगार देते हैं, पर मूल्य निर्माण में लगातार कम योगदान देते हैं।
- This does not diminish the achievement of 8.2% growth.  
यह 8.2% वृद्धि की उपलब्धि को कम नहीं करता।
- However, it makes the narrative more difficult.  
हालाँकि, यह कथा को अधिक जटिल बना देता है।
- The IMF's grade serves as a subtle reminder to see past the quarterly glow and recognise the unresolved issues in economic structure, finance, and governance.  
IMF का ग्रेड इस बात का संकेत है कि तिमाही चमक के पार जाकर अर्थव्यवस्था, वित्त और शासन की अनसुलझी समस्याओं को पहचानना चाहिए।
- India is leading the way.  
भारत आगे बढ़ रहा है।
- What it needs now is the depth.  
अब इसे गहराई की आवश्यकता है।



## PM Modi, Goyal expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact

**GS III: Economy**

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal are expected to travel to Oman next week to sign a free trade agreement with that country, sources who are also part of the delegation confirmed on Wednesday. The exact dates and the composition of the delegation will be confirmed after the Union Cabinet gives its approval.

India and Oman began negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in November 2023. Following three rounds of negotiations, between November 2023 and March 2024, both sides reached an agreement on all aspects of the CEPA, including text and market access offers, the Department of Commerce said in a separate release.

A Cabinet proposal regarding the deal, submitted in March 2024, was deferred at the time, prompting further renegotiations. The fourth round was held in September 2024 and the fifth in January 13-14, 2025, both of which focused on revised offers. According to the press note, both sides are now in the process of securing internal approvals for the final deal. However, according to sources, this is more of a formality, with the deal having been finalised and the signing set to



Narendra Modi with Sultan of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. FILE PHOTO

happen soon. "The Prime Minister and Commerce Minister are set to visit Oman next week, maybe on December 17-18, to sign the deal," a member of the likely delegation told *The Hindu*. "The exact dates of the trip and composition of delegation will be finalised after the Cabinet gives its approval, which is a formality at this point."

Speaking to reporters in Jaipur, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal confirmed that talks with Oman are in "their final stages" for a free trade agreement. He added that New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay is visiting New Delhi on Friday for negotiation on an FTA.

"With them, too, our talks have reached the last stages," Mr. Goyal said.

On the FTA with the EU, he said following the visit of the delegation from the EU over the last eight days and of Maroš Šefčovič, EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security over the last two days, the broad outline of the deal has been finalised.

**PM Modi, Goyal expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact**

**पीएम मोदी, गोयल अगले सप्ताह ओमान जाने की उम्मीद, मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए**

• PM Modi, Goyal expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact पीएम मोदी, गोयल expected to travel to Oman next week to sign free trade pact Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** are expected to travel to Oman next week to sign a free trade agreement with that country, sources who are also part of the delegation confirmed on Wednesday.

• India and Oman began negotiations on a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** in **November 2023**.

### GS Paper III: S&T

#### TOPICS COVERED

11\_12\_2025

1.

**QUIZ**

2.

**AI must pay**

**एआई को भुगतान करना चाहिए**

3.

**Satellites, science, and the new fight for spectrum in space**

**उपग्रह, विज्ञान, और अंतरिक्ष में स्पेक्ट्रम के लिए नई लड़ाई**



At which Indian institution did Max Born spend six months in 1935-1936? He'd been invited by the head of the institution. Born also considered taking a permanent position there but couldn't when the institution didn't create a separate chair for him.

**Answers to December 9 quiz:**

1. Ailment also known as Hansen's disease -

**Ans: Leprosy**

2. Condition caused by an unclean instrument cutting the umbilical cord - **Ans: Neonatal tetanus**

3. Infection that roughens the inner surfaces of eyelids - **Ans: Trachoma**

4. Parasitic infection caused by *D. medinensis* - **Ans: Guinea-worm disease**

5. Neglected disease caused by Spirochaetota bacteria - **Ans: Yaws**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Nitin Das | Anmol Agrawal | Vidhyasagar Krishnamoorthy | Nancy Karkada

possibly via droplets from the nose and mouth.

### Symptoms and Clinical Features

- Common signs include:
  - Light or dark skin patches with **loss of sensation**
  - Numbness in hands and feet
  - Muscle weakness
  - Thickening of peripheral nerves
  - Eye involvement leading to vision problems
- If left untreated, leprosy can cause **nerve damage**, leading to disability.

### Types of Leprosy (As per WHO classification)

- **Paucibacillary (PB) Leprosy:**
  - Fewer lesions
  - Lower bacterial load
- **Multibacillary (MB) Leprosy:**
  - Multiple lesions

### QUIZ

#### Ailment Also Known as Hansen's Disease

**Answer: Leprosy**

- **Leprosy**, medically known as **Hansen's disease**, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacterium **Mycobacterium leprae**.
  - It primarily affects the **skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the respiratory tract, and eyes**.
  - The disease is named after **Gerhard Armauer Hansen**, the Norwegian physician who discovered the causative organism in **1873**.

#### Cause of Leprosy

- The disease is caused by **Mycobacterium leprae**, a slow-growing bacterium.
  - It multiplies very slowly, with an incubation period ranging from **5 to 20 years**.
  - Transmission occurs mainly through **prolonged close contact** with an untreated infected person,



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- Higher bacterial load
- More severe and contagious

### Treatment

- Leprosy is **completely curable** with **Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT)** recommended by the World Health Organization.
- MDT includes:
  - **Rifampicin**
  - **Dapsone**
  - **Clofazimine**
- Treatment duration:
  - **6 months** for Paucibacillary
  - **12 months** for Multibacillary
- MDT is provided **free of cost** by governments worldwide, including India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

### Leprosy in India

- The disease was officially declared **eliminated as a public health problem in India in 2005**, meaning prevalence dropped below **1 case per 10,000 population**.
  - **NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Programme)**
  - Active surveillance and early diagnosis
  - Disability prevention and rehabilitation services

### Condition Caused by an Unclean Instrument Cutting the Umbilical Cord

#### Answer: Neonatal Tetanus

- **Neonatal tetanus** is a life-threatening condition that occurs in newborns, usually within the first **28 days of life**.
  - It results from infection by the bacterium **Clostridium tetani**, which produces a powerful neurotoxin affecting the nervous system.
  - One of the most common causes is the use of an **unclean instrument** to cut the umbilical cord or applying **contaminated substances** to the cord stump.

#### Cause and Transmission

- The disease is caused by **Clostridium tetani**, a bacterium found in **soil, dust, animal feces**, and contaminated surfaces.
- Transmission in newborns occurs when:
  - The umbilical cord is cut with a **non-sterile blade or instrument**
  - Cow dung, ash, mud, oils, ghee, or herbal pastes are applied to the cord
  - Poor hygiene during home deliveries
- The bacteria enter the newborn's body through the **umbilical stump**, multiply, and release **tetanospasmin**, a potent neurotoxin.

#### Symptoms of Neonatal Tetanus

- Symptoms typically appear between **3–14 days after birth**.
- Key signs include:
  - Difficulty in sucking or feeding
  - Muscle stiffness, especially in the jaw ("lockjaw")
  - Body spasms triggered by light, noise, or touch



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- Opisthotonus (arched back due to severe spasms)
- Respiratory failure in severe cases
- If untreated, neonatal tetanus is **almost always fatal**.

### Why Neonatal Tetanus Occurs

- It is primarily associated with:
  - **Unsafe home deliveries**
  - **Lack of maternal tetanus immunization**
  - Poor sanitation and lack of sterile delivery practices
- The condition is **preventable** with proper hygiene and vaccination.

### Trachoma: Infection That Roughens the Inner Surfaces of Eyelids

Answer: Trachoma

- **Trachoma** is a chronic infectious disease of the eye caused by the bacterium **Chlamydia trachomatis**.
  - It primarily affects the **conjunctiva**, the inner surface of the eyelids.
  - Repeated infection leads to **roughening of the inner eyelids**, scarring, and ultimately blindness if not treated.

### How Trachoma Roughens the Eyelids

- Repeated episodes of infection cause **chronic inflammation** of the inner eyelid.
- This leads to **scarring** of the conjunctiva.
- With time, scarring causes the eyelid to turn inward (**entropion**).
- The eyelashes rub against the cornea (**trichiasis**), causing pain, corneal injury, and vision loss.
- Untreated trachoma can lead to **corneal opacity**, resulting in permanent blindness.

### Parasitic Infection Caused by *Dracunculus medinensis*

Answer: Guinea-worm disease

- **Guinea-worm disease**, also known as **Dracunculiasis**, is a parasitic infection caused by the worm **Dracunculus medinensis**.
  - It is one of the oldest known human diseases and historically affected millions of people, especially in rural, water-scarce areas.
  - The disease is **not fatal**, but it causes extreme pain, disability, and prolonged suffering.

### Neglected Disease Caused by Spirochaetota Bacteria

Answer: Yaws

- **Yaws** is a chronic, neglected tropical disease caused by the bacterium **Treponema pallidum subspecies pertenue**, which belongs to the **Spirochaetota** phylum.
  - It primarily affects **skin, bones, and cartilage**, mostly in children living in warm, humid, tropical regions.
  - Yaws is **highly contagious**, but easily treatable with antibiotics.

### Causative Agent

- The bacterium responsible for Yaws is a **spirochete**, a spiral-shaped microorganism similar to the one that causes syphilis but **not sexually transmitted**.
- Transmission occurs mainly through **direct skin-to-skin contact** with infectious lesions.



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### Disease Transmission

- Yaws spreads through:
  - Direct contact with the **fluid from skin lesions**
  - Poor hygiene and overcrowding
  - Warm, tropical environments that favor transmission
- Most affected patients are **children under 15 years**, especially in rural communities.

### Why Yaws is Considered a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)

- Affects poor, rural, underserved populations
- Low visibility in public health systems
- Limited access to healthcare in endemic regions
- Lack of awareness among communities
- Less priority in global funding despite easy treatment

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GS III: S&T MCB

## AI must pay

The working paper on AI and Copyright Issues is a good start

The rapid strides being made by LLMs in terms of quality, depth of information and sophistication of reasoning, are fuelled by two major factors. The first is iterative advancements in applied machine learning techniques, which continuously improve the performance of LLMs. The second is growing access to text, data and multimedia used in training these models. AI firms have argued that information on the Internet should be freely usable for such training, even if reproduction and similar acts of syndication by any non-AI entity would be subject to a licence fee and consent by the content producer. This has led to a fierce debate that pits the interests of AI hyperscalers and developers against content producers (news, entertainment and book publishing, to name a few). In this light, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's working paper on AI and Copyright Issues' proposal is a welcome step towards a solution where content providers are remunerated, without having a system that could put India's AI ecosystem at a disadvantage.

The paper's solution boils down to a mandatory licensing framework, which would allow AI data scraping tools to limitlessly scrape public information from the Internet, but would ensure that a non-profit copyright society-like body would collect payments from AI developers on the basis of revenue accrued to them through the benefits of training their models on Indian content producers' data. The reasoning is partly driven by practical shrewdness on the drafting committee's part, which rightly reasons that opting out of data scraping, and enforcing this when AI developers ignore their wishes, is not practical for every content producer. The other driver is a belief in data processing as a right for AI models, seeing as they do not usually reproduce content they are trained on, but synthesise fresh outputs. There are issues with how the royalty amount would be decided – small publishers who put in effort and investment in their work may chafe at receiving as much remuneration a piece as a big media house putting out hundreds of articles a day. But a system for remuneration is urgent, even if flawed. Lawsuits pitting AI firms against the publishers of the content they train models on are ongoing, and no uniform judicial thinking has materialised on the subject. The committee correctly notes that waiting for the outcome of any given litigation is unwise. The white paper – and a dissent by tech industry representatives – is a promising gesture towards a collaborative framework. The government needs to support this. A flawed system can be deliberated in the courts; the absence of one is a gift to AI firms in their ongoing disruption of the media and net landscape.

framework, which would allow AI data scraping tools to limitlessly scrape public information from the Internet, while ensuring that a non-profit copyright society-like body collects payments from AI developers.

पत्र का समाधान एक अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग ढाँचे पर आधारित है, जो एआई डेटा स्कैपिंग उपकरणों को इंटरनेट से सार्वजनिक जानकारी अनंत रूप से लेने की अनुमति देगा, जबकि एक गैर-लाभकारी संस्था एआई डेवलपर्स से भुगतान एकत्र करेगी।

- Payments would be based on revenue accrued to them through the benefits of training their models on Indian content producers' data.

## AI must pay

### एआई को भुगतान करना चाहिए

- The working paper on AI and Copyright Issues is a good start

एआई और कॉपीराइट मुद्दों पर कार्यपत्र एक अच्छा प्रारंभ है

## LLMs, Data Access, and Mandatory Licensing Framework

### एलएलएम, डेटा उपलब्धता, और अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग ढांचा

- The rapid strides being made by LLMs in terms of quality, depth of information and sophistication of reasoning, are fuelled by two major factors.

गुणवत्ता, जानकारी की गहराई और तर्क की उन्नत क्षमता में एलएलएम द्वारा की जा रही तेज़ प्रगति दो प्रमुख कारकों से संचालित है।

- The first is iterative advancements in applied machine learning techniques, which continuously improve the performance of LLMs.

पहला कारण एप्लाइड मशीन लर्निंग तकनीकों में चरणबद्ध प्रगति है, जो एलएलएम के प्रदर्शन को लगातार बेहतर बनाती है।

- The second is growing access to text, data and multimedia used in training these models.

दूसरा कारण उन मॉडलों को प्रशिक्षित करने में उपयोग किए जाने वाले पाठ, डेटा और मल्टीमीडिया तक बढ़ती पहुँच है।

- AI firms have argued that information on the Internet should be freely usable for such training, even if reproduction and similar acts of syndication by any non-AI entity would be subject to a licence fee and consent by the content producer.

एआई कंपनियों ने तर्क दिया है कि इंटरनेट पर उपलब्ध जानकारी ऐसे प्रशिक्षण के लिए मुफ्त उपयोग में लाई जानी चाहिए, भले ही किसी अन्य संस्था द्वारा उसकी प्रतिलिपि या सिंडिकेशन के लिए अनुमति और शुल्क आवश्यक हो।

- This has led to a fierce debate that pits the interests of AI hyperscalers and developers against content producers.

इससे एआई हाइपरस्केलर और डेवलपर्स तथा कंटेंट उत्पादकों के बीच तीखी बहस उत्पन्न हुई है।

- In this light, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's working paper on AI and Copyright Issues' proposal is a welcome step towards a solution where content providers are remunerated, without disadvantaging India's AI ecosystem.

इसी संदर्भ में डीपीआईआईटी के एआई और कॉपीराइट मुद्दे विषयक कार्यपत्र का प्रस्ताव एक स्वागतयोग्य कदम है, जिससे कंटेंट उत्पादकों को प्रतिफल मिल सके और भारत की एआई प्रणाली को नुकसान न हो।

- The paper's solution boils down to a mandatory licensing



भुगतान उन पर निर्भर होगा जो उन्हें भारतीय कंटेंट उत्पादकों के डेटा पर मॉडलों को प्रशिक्षित करने से मिलने वाले **राजस्व लाभ** से प्राप्त होता है।

- The reasoning is partly driven by practical shrewdness, noting that opting out of data scraping is not practical for every content producer.  
इस तर्क का एक भाग **व्यावहारिक बुद्धिमत्ता** पर आधारित है, क्योंकि सभी कंटेंट उत्पादकों के लिए डेटा स्क्रेपिंग से बाहर रहना संभव नहीं है।
- The other driver is a belief in **data processing as a right for AI models, as they synthesise fresh outputs rather than reproducing original content.**  
दूसरा कारण यह विश्वास है कि एआई मॉडलों के लिए **डेटा प्रोसेसिंग एक अधिकार** है, क्योंकि वे मूल सामग्री की प्रतिलिपि नहीं बनाते, बल्कि नई सामग्री **सिंथेसाइज़** करते हैं।
- There are issues with **how the royalty amount would be decided** — small publishers may object to receiving the same remuneration as large media houses.  
यह प्रश्न बना हुआ है कि **रॉयल्टी राशि** कैसे तय होगी—छोटे प्रकाशक यह कहकर आपत्ति कर सकते हैं कि उन्हें बड़े मीडिया संस्थानों के बराबर भुगतान नहीं मिलना चाहिए।
- But a system for remuneration is **urgent**, even if flawed.  
लेकिन एक **प्रतिफल प्रणाली** अत्यंत आवश्यक है, चाहे वह त्रुटिपूर्ण ही क्यों न हो।
- Lawsuits pitting AI firms against publishers are ongoing, and no uniform judicial view has materialised so far.  
एआई कंपनियों और प्रकाशकों के बीच **विधिक विवाद** जारी हैं और अभी तक कोई समान न्यायिक दृष्टिकोण सामने नहीं आया है।
- The committee correctly notes that waiting for the outcome of any given litigation is unwise.  
समिति ने सही कहा है कि किसी मुकदमे के नतीजे की प्रतीक्षा करना **असमंजसपूर्ण** है।
- The white paper — and a dissent by tech industry representatives — is a promising gesture towards a **collaborative framework.**  
श्वेत पत्र—और तकनीकी उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों की असहमति—एक **सहयोगात्मक ढाँचे** की दिशा में आशाजनक संकेत है।
- The government needs to support this.  
सरकार को इसे **समर्थन** करने की आवश्यकता है।
- A flawed system can be deliberated in courts; the absence of one is a **gift to AI firms** in their disruption of the media landscape.  
एक त्रुटिपूर्ण प्रणाली पर अदालतों में विचार किया जा सकता है; लेकिन प्रणाली का अभाव **एआई कंपनियों के लिए वरदान** है जो मीडिया परिदृश्य में अव्यवस्था फैला रही हैं।



# Satellites, science, and the new fight for spectrum in space

As the demand for satellite communication escalates, experts warn that without effective regulation and coordination, the rapid expansion of satellite constellations could lead to disruptions and congestion, and further the digital divide

GS III: S&T

MOB

Shrawani Shagun

There's at least one space race already underway to get to the moon. There's also another one: to claim radio frequencies and orbital slots in the limited space around the earth. The main participants of this race are companies launching large fleets of satellites working together, called megaconstellations. These megaconstellations are already revolutionising Internet access around the world – but they're also sparking a fierce and fraught competition for the invisible highways across which they send and receive information.

In physics, 'spectrum' refers to energy levels. Satellite communications use the word with a similar meaning: the spectrum is the range of radio frequencies available for wireless data transmission. Radio frequencies are to outer space activities as oxygen is to life on the earth's surface: essential. Enabling data transmission between satellites and ground stations through electromagnetic spectrum bands allocated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) assigns the frequencies of electromagnetic radiation that different satellites and ground stations can use to talk to each other. The most sought after frequencies are Ku-band (12-18 GHz) and Ka-band (26-40 GHz) for high-speed satellite internet and L-band (1-2 GHz) for GPS. Each satellite must coordinate its spectrum use to avoid interfering with signals in another channel. But spectrum alone is insufficient: satellites also need to occupy certain physical orbital positions so that their broadcasts reach antennae on the ground.

## Megaconstellation boom

This scramble for spectrum and orbital slots has led to unprecedented satellite deployment. SpaceX's Starlink, launched in 2019, now operates over 8,000 satellites with plans for up to 42,000. OneWeb has 648 satellites. Amazon's Project Kuiper plans 3,200, and China's GuoWang has aimed for 13,000.

The value of the satellite megaconstellation market is thus projected to explode from \$4.27 billion in 2024 to \$27.31 billion by 2032, a 25.5% annual growth rate driven by demand for

high-speed Internet in remote regions and dropping launch costs. The competition also transcends commercial markets; to countries outside the west, megaconstellations constitute a strategic push for technological sovereignty in space communications.

## ITU governance

The ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations with 194 member states. It serves as the sole global coordinator for satellite spectrum and orbital slots, operating under the principle that these are "limited natural resources that must be used rationally, efficiently and economically".

The ITU's first-come, first-served coordination system requires satellite operators to file frequency applications and coordinate with potentially affected administrations before receiving international recognition. This creates a competitive advantage for well-capitalised entities from spacefaring nations because they can file applications early and maintain the legal and technical expertise to navigate the lengthy coordination process. Late entrants risk finding the most valuable spectrum-orbital combinations already claimed.

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 introduced some reforms. Its Resolution 8 in particular requires operators to notify deviations between planned and actual orbital deployments, preventing companies from claiming one orbit while deploying elsewhere. The Conference also formalised expectations that if a company proposes to launch a megaconstellation, it must deploy 10% of it within two years, 50% within five years, and complete deployment in seven years.

The ITU's framework was designed for the 1960s-1990s satellite era and today faces mounting pressure. Its 2025-2029 operational plan identifies "spectrum and satellite orbits" as the top priority, acknowledging that traditional coordination mechanisms designed for hundreds of satellites are struggling to manage thousands of annual deployments. The body processes approximately 80% of satellite-related agenda items, a sign that satellite constellations dominate international spectrum management.

## Digital divide

It's not possible to simply write off megaconstellations because they are one solution to bridging a connectivity disparity among the world's countries.

For instance, on the Global Connectivity Index (a figure that combines the number of internet users, connected devices, natural-disaster vulnerability, and GDP), Switzerland leads with a score of 34.41 while India sits at 8.59, a nearly fourfold gap. Worldwide, 2.6 billion people remained offline at the start of 2025, with the most vulnerable populations in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Satellite operators know that satellites in low-earth orbit (150-2,000 km above sea level) promise lower latency and higher bandwidth than traditional geostationary satellites (35,786 km above sea level). A latency of 20-40 ms, compared to 600+ ms for geostationary satellites, makes real-time applications like telemedicine and online education more feasible in remote regions, especially where ground-based infrastructure is out of the question.

The thorn here is affordability. Starlink's user terminal, which receives the satellites' transmissions, costs around \$600 (₹53,168 on November 17) with monthly subscription fees, which is unaffordable for rural populations without subsidies or tiered pricing models. The ITU's 'Connecting Humanity Action Blueprint' has also estimated that closing the digital divide by 2030 will require \$2.6-2.8 trillion in investments, underscoring the scale of the challenge.

For emerging spacefaring nations, this creates dual imperatives: securing spectrum access through the ITU's coordination system while ensuring connectivity translates to genuine affordability.

India exemplifies this situation. The GSAT-N2 satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation has a throughput of 48 Gbps and covers remote regions, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Northeast, while Bharti Enterprises' 39% stake in OneWeb positions India within the global low-earth orbit ecosystem. However, the Telecom Regulatory Authority has recommended administrative spectrum allocation rather than auctions, recognising that spectrum for

non-geostationary satellites can be shared when properly coordinated. This framework is designed to accelerate deployment while maintaining affordability.

Yet the fundamental tension remains: without regulatory mandates for universal service obligations or government subsidies, satellite broadband risks becoming premium infrastructure serving urban enterprises and wealthy households rather than bridging urban-rural divides.

## The path onward

Thus the urgency of reform is clear. Current trajectories indicate operators around the world will launch more than 50,000 satellites by 2030. The Earth orbit hosts around 40,000 tracked objects, including over 27,000 pieces of debris larger than 10 cm.

The ITU adopted a resolution called ITU-R 74 in 2023 calling for the sustainable use of spectrum and orbital resources, including measures to mitigate space debris. Notably, it requires satellites to be removed from orbit within 25 years of completing their missions to prevent defunct spacecraft from accumulating in orbit. Current compliance rates remain low, however, with at best 70% of satellite operators actually deorbiting their machines in this timeframe. This compliance gap means debris continues to accumulate faster than it is removed, threatening the long-term sustainability of orbital space.

As megaconstellations enter orbit, the overall success depends on governance frameworks that balance commercial innovation with scientific research, equitable access, and of course orbital sustainability. Without binding international standards and equitable allocation, the fight for spectrum could become a war, risking creating an orbital environment that is eventually too congested for anyone to use. For emerging space nations like India, shaping these frameworks now, rather than accepting rules written by other governments, will determine whether space becomes a shared resource or a domain of persistent inequality.

Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance.

## Satellites, science, and the new fight for spectrum in space

### उपग्रह, विज्ञान, और अंतरिक्ष में स्पेक्ट्रम के लिए नई लड़ाई

- As the demand for **satellite communication** escalates, experts warn that without **effective regulation** and **coordination**, the rapid expansion of satellite constellations could lead to **disruptions and congestion**, and further the **digital divide**  
जैसे-जैसे **सैटेलाइट संचार** की मांग बढ़ रही है, विशेषज्ञ चेतावनी देते हैं कि **प्रभावी विनियमन** और **समन्वय** के बिना उपग्रह नक्षत्रों का तेज विस्तार **विघटन, भीड़भाड़**, और बढ़ती **डिजिटल खाई** का कारण बन सकता है

## Megaconstellation boom and the scramble for spectrum

### मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन उछाल और स्पेक्ट्रम की होड़

- There's at least one space race already underway to get to the moon. चांद तक पहुँचने की कम से कम एक **अंतरिक्ष दौड़** पहले से ही जारी है।
- There's also another one: to claim radio frequencies and orbital slots in the limited space around the earth.



एक और दौड़ भी है: पृथ्वी के आसपास की सीमित जगह में रेडियो आवृत्तियों और कक्षीय स्लॉट्स पर दावा करने की।

- The main participants of this race are companies launching large fleets of satellites working together, called **megaconstellations**.  
इस दौड़ के मुख्य प्रतिभागी वे कंपनियाँ हैं जो मिलकर काम करने वाले उपग्रहों के बड़े फ्लीट्स, यानी **मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन्स**, को प्रक्षेपित कर रही हैं।
- These megaconstellations are already revolutionising Internet access around the world** — but they're also sparking a fierce and fraught competition for the invisible highways across which they send and receive information.  
ये मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन्स दुनिया भर में **इंटरनेट एक्सेस** में क्रांति ला रही हैं — लेकिन साथ ही **अदृश्य संचार मार्गों** पर कड़ी और जटिल प्रतिस्पर्धा भी पैदा कर रही हैं।
- In physics, **'spectrum' refers to energy levels**.  
भौतिकी में **'स्पेक्ट्रम'** ऊर्जा स्तरों को संदर्भित करता है।
- Satellite communications uses the word with a similar meaning: the **spectrum is the range of radio frequencies available for wireless data transmission**.  
उपग्रह संचार में भी यही अर्थ है: स्पेक्ट्रम **वायरलेस डेटा ट्रांसमिशन** हेतु उपलब्ध **रेडियो फ्रीक्वेंसीज़** की सीमा है।
- Radio frequencies are to outer space activities as oxygen is to life on the earth's surface: essential.  
अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के लिए **रेडियो आवृत्तियाँ** उतनी ही आवश्यक हैं जितना पृथ्वी पर जीवन के लिए **ऑक्सीजन**।
- Enabling data transmission between satellites and ground stations through electromagnetic spectrum bands allocated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** assigns the frequencies of electromagnetic radiation that different satellites and ground stations can use to talk to each other.  
उपग्रहों और ग्राउंड स्टेशनों के बीच डेटा संचार **ITU** द्वारा आवंटित **विद्युतचुंबकीय स्पेक्ट्रम बैंडों** के माध्यम से होता है, जिससे यह तय होता है कि कौन-सी आवृत्तियाँ वे परस्पर संचार हेतु उपयोग करेंगे।
- The most sought after frequencies are **Ku-band (12-18 GHz) and Ka-band (26-40 GHz) for high-speed satellite internet and L-band (1-2 GHz) for GPS**.  
सबसे अधिक माँग वाली आवृत्तियाँ हैं: **Ku-बैंड (12-18 GHz)**, **Ka-बैंड (26-40 GHz)** उच्च गति इंटरनेट हेतु, और **L-बैंड (1-2 GHz)** GPS के लिए।
- Each satellite must coordinate its spectrum use to avoid interfering with signals in another channel**.  
हर उपग्रह को स्पेक्ट्रम उपयोग समन्वित करना होता है ताकि **सिग्नल इंटरफेरेंस** न हो।
- But spectrum alone is insufficient: satellites also need to occupy certain physical orbital positions so that their broadcasts reach antennae on the ground**.  
सिर्फ स्पेक्ट्रम काफी नहीं; उपग्रहों को कुछ **भौतिक कक्षीय स्थानों** की भी आवश्यकता होती है ताकि उनके प्रसारण ज़मीन पर एंटीना तक पहुँच सकें।



## Megaconstellation boom मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन उछाल

- This scramble for spectrum and orbital slots has led to unprecedented satellite deployment.  
स्पेक्ट्रम और कक्षीय स्लॉट्स की इस होड़ ने **अभूतपूर्व उपग्रह तैनाती** को जन्म दिया है।
- SpaceX's Starlink, launched in 2019, now operates over 8,000 satellites with plans for up to 42,000**.  
2019 में शुरू हुई **SpaceX Starlink** अब **8,000 से अधिक उपग्रह** चला रही है और इसे **42,000** तक बढ़ाने की योजना है।
- OneWeb has 648 satellites, Amazon's Project Kuiper plans 3,200, and China's GuoWang has aimed for 13,000**.  
OneWeb के पास **648**, Amazon के **Project Kuiper** की योजना **3,200**, और चीन के **GuoWang** का लक्ष्य **13,000** उपग्रह है।



- The value of the satellite megaconstellation market is thus projected to explode from **\$4.27 billion in 2024 to \$27.31 billion by 2032**, a **25.5% annual growth rate** driven by demand for high-speed Internet in remote regions and dropping launch costs.  
मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन बाज़ार का मूल्य 2024 के **\$4.27 बिलियन** से बढ़कर 2032 में **\$27.31 बिलियन** होने का अनुमान है, जिसमें **25.5% वार्षिक वृद्धि दर** शामिल है।
- The competition also transcends commercial markets; to countries outside the west, megaconstellations constitute a strategic push for technological sovereignty in space communications.  
यह प्रतिस्पर्धा व्यापारिक सीमाओं से परे है; पश्चिम के बाहर कई देशों के लिए मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन्स **अंतरिक्ष संचार में तकनीकी संप्रभुता** का साधन हैं।

## ITU governance

### आईटीयू शासन

- The **ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations with 194 member states**.  
आईटीयू **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** की एक विशेषीकृत एजेंसी है जिसके **194 सदस्य देश** हैं।
- **It serves as the sole global coordinator for satellite spectrum and orbital slots**, operating under the principle that these are “limited natural resources that must be used rationally, efficiently and economically”.  
यह **उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम** और **कक्षीय स्लॉट्स** के लिए एकमात्र वैश्विक समन्वयक के रूप में कार्य करता है, इस सिद्धांत के तहत कि ये “सीमित प्राकृतिक संसाधन हैं जिन्हें तर्कसंगत, कुशल और आर्थिक रूप से उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।”
- The **ITU’s first-come, first-served coordination system requires satellite operators to file frequency applications and coordinate** with potentially affected administrations before receiving international recognition.  
आईटीयू की **पहले आओ, पहले पाओ** समन्वय प्रणाली उपग्रह संचालकों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मान्यता प्राप्त करने से पहले **फ्रीक्वेंसी एप्लिकेशन दाखिल** करने और प्रभावित प्रशासन से समन्वय की आवश्यकता करती है।
- This creates a competitive advantage for well-capitalised entities from spacefaring nations because they can file applications early and maintain the legal and technical expertise to navigate the lengthy coordination process.  
यह अंतरिक्ष-क्षमता वाले देशों की अच्छी पूंजी वाली संस्थाओं को **प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ** देता है क्योंकि वे जल्दी आवेदन दाखिल कर सकती हैं और लंबे समन्वय प्रक्रियाओं को संभालने के लिए कानूनी और तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता रखती हैं।
- Late entrants risk finding the most valuable spectrum-orbital combinations already claimed.  
देर से आने वालों के लिए जोखिम यह है कि सबसे मूल्यवान **स्पेक्ट्रम-कक्षीय संयोजन** पहले ही दावा किए जा चुके होते हैं।
- The **World Radiocommunication Conference 2023** introduced some reforms.  
**वर्ल्ड रेडियो कम्युनिकेशन कॉन्फ्रेंस 2023** ने कुछ सुधार प्रस्तुत किए।
- Its Resolution 8 in particular requires operators to notify deviations between planned and actual orbital deployments, preventing companies from claiming one orbit while deploying elsewhere.  
इसकी **रेज़ोल्यूशन 8** विशेष रूप से संचालकों से नियोजित और वास्तविक **कक्षीय तैनाती** के बीच अंतर की सूचना देने की मांग करती है, जिससे कंपनियों को एक कक्षा का दावा कर वहीं और तैनात होने से रोका जा सके।
- The **Conference also formalised expectations that if a company proposes to launch a megaconstellation, it must deploy 10% of it within two years, 50% within five years, and complete deployment in seven years**.  
सम्मेलन ने यह औपचारिक किया कि यदि कोई कंपनी **मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन** लॉन्च करने का प्रस्ताव रखती है, तो उसे **दो वर्ष में 10%, पाँच वर्ष में 50%**, और **सात वर्ष में पूरी तैनाती** करनी होगी।
- The **ITU’s framework was designed for the 1960s-1990s satellite era and today faces mounting pressure**.  
आईटीयू का ढांचा **1960-1990** के उपग्रह युग के लिए बनाया गया था और आज बढ़ते **दबाव** का सामना कर रहा है।
- Its 2025-2029 operational plan identifies “spectrum and satellite orbits” as the top priority, acknowledging that traditional coordination mechanisms designed for hundreds of satellites



are struggling to manage thousands of annual deployments.

इसकी 2025–2029 संचालन योजना “स्पेक्ट्रम और उपग्रह कक्षाएँ” को शीर्ष प्राथमिकता बताती है, यह स्वीकार करते हुए कि सैकड़ों उपग्रहों के लिए बनाए गए पारंपरिक तंत्र अब हजारों वार्षिक तैनातियों को संभालने में संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।

- The body processes approximately 80% of satellite-related agenda items, a sign that satellite constellations dominate international spectrum management.  
यह संस्था उपग्रह-संबंधित एजेंडा आइटम्स का लगभग 80% संसाधित करती है, जो दर्शाता है कि उपग्रह नक्षत्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्पेक्ट्रम प्रबंधन पर प्रभुत्व रखते हैं।

## Digital divide डिजिटल विभाजन

- It's not possible to simply write off megaconstellations because they are one solution to bridging a connectivity disparity among the world's countries.  
मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन्स को सरलता से खारिज करना संभव नहीं है क्योंकि वे विश्व के देशों के बीच कनेक्टिविटी असमानता को पाटने का एक समाधान हैं।
- For instance, on the **Global Connectivity Index** (a figure that combines the number of internet users, connected devices, natural-disaster vulnerability, and GDP), Switzerland leads with a score of **34.41** while India sits at **8.59**, a nearly **fourfold gap**.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **ग्लोबल कनेक्टिविटी इंडेक्स** (जो इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ताओं, कनेक्टेड डिवाइसेज, प्राकृतिक आपदा भेद्यता, और जीडीपी को मिलाकर बनाता है) में स्विट्ज़रलैंड का स्कोर **34.41** है, जबकि भारत **8.59** पर है — लगभग **चार गुना अंतर**।
- **Worldwide, 2.6 billion people remained offline at the start of 2025, with the most vulnerable populations in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America.**  
दुनिया भर में **2.6 अरब लोग 2025 की शुरुआत में ऑफलाइन थे**, जिनमें सबसे अधिक संवेदनशील आबादी **दक्षिण एशिया, अफ्रीका और लैटिन अमेरिका** में है।
- **Satellite operators know that satellites in low-earth orbit (150-2,000 km) above sea level promise lower latency and higher bandwidth than traditional geostationary satellites (35,786 km) above sea level.**  
उपग्रह संचालक जानते हैं कि **लो-अर्थ ऑर्बिट (150–2,000 किमी)** उपग्रह पारंपरिक **जियोस्टेशनरी उपग्रहों (35,786 किमी)** की तुलना में कम **लेटेंसी** और अधिक **बैंडविड्थ** प्रदान करते हैं।
- **A latency of 20-40 ms, compared to 600+ ms for geostationary satellites, makes real-time applications like telemedicine and online education more feasible in remote regions, especially where ground-based infrastructure is out of the question.**  
**20–40 ms** की लेटेंसी (जियोस्टेशनरी के **600+ ms** की तुलना में) दूरदराज़ क्षेत्रों में टेलीमेडिसिन और ऑनलाइन शिक्षा जैसी **रीयल-टाइम सेवाओं** को अधिक संभव बनाती है, विशेषकर जहाँ ज़मीनी अवसंरचना असंभव है।
- The thorn here is affordability.  
यहाँ समस्या **सुलभता** की है।
- Starlink's user terminal, which receives the satellites' transmissions, costs around **\$600 (₹53,168 on November 17)** with monthly subscription fees, which is unaffordable for rural populations without subsidies or tiered pricing models.  
स्टारलिनक का उपयोगकर्ता टर्मिनल **\$600 (₹53,168, 17 नवंबर)** का है, साथ में मासिक शुल्क भी — जो ग्रामीण आबादी के लिए सब्सिडी या स्तरित मूल्य निर्धारण के बिना **असुलभ** है।
- The **ITU's 'Connecting Humanity Action Blueprint'** has also estimated that closing the digital divide by **2030 will require \$2.6–2.8 trillion in investments, underscoring the scale of the challenge.**  
आईटीयू के 'कनेक्टिंग ह्यूमैनिटी एक्शन ब्लूप्रिंट' ने अनुमान लगाया है कि **2030 तक डिजिटल विभाजन को खत्म करने के लिए \$2.6–2.8 ट्रिलियन** के निवेश की आवश्यकता होगी, जो चुनौती के पैमाने को दर्शाता है।
- For emerging spacefaring nations, this creates dual imperatives: securing spectrum access through the ITU's coordination system while ensuring connectivity translates to genuine affordability.  
उभरते अंतरिक्ष देशों के लिए, यह दोहरी आवश्यकता बनाता है: आईटीयू की समन्वय प्रणाली के माध्यम से **स्पेक्ट्रम पहुँच सुरक्षित करना**, और साथ ही **कनेक्टिविटी को वास्तव में सुलभ** बनाना।



- India exemplifies this situation.  
भारत इस स्थिति का प्रमुख उदाहरण है।
- The **GSAT-N2 satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation has a throughput of 48 Gbps and covers remote regions**, including the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** and the **Northeast**, while Bharti Enterprises' **39% stake** in OneWeb positions India within the global low-earth orbit ecosystem.  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन का **GSAT-N2** उपग्रह **48 Gbps** थ्रूपुट रखता है और **अंडमान-निकोबार द्वीपों** और **पूर्वोत्तर** सहित दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों को कवर करता है, जबकि भारती एंटरप्राइजेज की **39% हिस्सेदारी** वनवेब में भारत को वैश्विक लो-अर्थ ऑर्बिट पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में स्थापित करती है।
- However, the **Telecom Regulatory Authority has recommended administrative spectrum allocation rather than auctions, recognising that spectrum for non-geostationary satellites can be shared when properly coordinated.**  
हालाँकि, दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण ने नीलामी के बजाय **प्रशासनिक स्पेक्ट्रम आवंटन** की सिफारिश की है, यह मानते हुए कि गैर-जियोस्टेशनरी उपग्रहों के लिए स्पेक्ट्रम उचित समन्वय पर **साझा किया जा सकता है**।
- This framework is designed to accelerate deployment while maintaining affordability.  
यह ढांचा तैनाती को तेज़ करने के साथ **सुलभता बनाए रखने** के लिए बनाया गया है।
- **Yet the fundamental tension remains: without regulatory mandates for universal service obligations or government subsidies, satellite broadband risks becoming premium infrastructure serving urban enterprises and wealthy households rather than bridging urban-rural divides.**  
फिर भी मूल तनाव बना रहता है: **यूनिवर्सल सर्विस ऑब्लिगेशन्स** या **सरकारी सब्सिडी** के बिना, उपग्रह ब्रॉडबैंड शहरी उद्यमों और संपन्न परिवारों की सेवा करने वाला **प्रीमियम अवसंरचना** बनकर रह जाएगा, बजाय इसके कि वह **ग्रामीण-शहरी विभाजन** को कम करे।

## The path onward आगे का मार्ग

- Thus the urgency of reform is clear.  
इस प्रकार सुधार की **तत्काल आवश्यकता** स्पष्ट है।
- Current trajectories indicate operators around the world will launch more than **50,000 satellites by 2030.**  
वर्तमान प्रवृत्तियाँ संकेत देती हैं कि विश्वभर के ऑपरेटर **2030 तक 50,000 से अधिक उपग्रह** लॉन्च करेंगे।
- The Earth orbit hosts around **40,000 tracked objects**, including over **27,000 pieces of debris** larger than 10 cm.  
पृथ्वी की कक्षा में लगभग **40,000 ट्रैक किए गए ऑब्जेक्ट्स** हैं, जिनमें **10 सेमी से बड़े 27,000 से अधिक मलबे** शामिल हैं।
- The **ITU adopted a resolution called ITU-R 74 in 2023 calling for the sustainable use of spectrum and orbital resources, including measures to mitigate space debris.**  
आईटीयू ने **2023 में ITU-R 74** नामक एक प्रस्ताव अपनाया, जिसमें स्पेक्ट्रम और कक्षीय संसाधनों के **सतत उपयोग** तथा **स्पेस डेब्रिस कम करने** के उपायों की बात कही गई।
- **Notably, it requires satellites to be removed from orbit within 25 years of completing their missions to prevent defunct spacecraft from accumulating in orbit.**  
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, यह मांग करता है कि मिशन पूरा होने के **25 वर्षों** के भीतर उपग्रहों को कक्षा से हटाया जाए ताकि निष्क्रिय यान **कक्षा में इकट्ठा न हों**।
- Current compliance rates remain low, however, with at best **70%** of satellite operators actually deorbiting their machines in this timeframe.  
हालाँकि, मौजूदा अनुपालन दरें कम हैं, और अधिकतम **70%** ऑपरेटर ही इस समयसीमा में अपने उपग्रहों को डी-ऑर्बिट करते हैं।
- This compliance gap means debris continues to accumulate faster than it is removed, threatening the long-term sustainability of orbital space.  
यह **अनुपालन अंतर** दर्शाता है कि मलबा हटने की तुलना में अधिक तेजी से जमा हो रहा है, जिससे कक्षीय अंतरिक्ष की **दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता** को खतरा है।
- **As megaconstellations enter orbit, the overall success depends on governance frameworks that balance commercial innovation with scientific research, equitable access, and of course orbital sustainability.**



जैसे-जैसे मेगाकॉन्स्टेलेशन कक्षा में प्रवेश करते हैं, उनकी सफलता **शासन ढाँचे** पर निर्भर करती है जो वाणिज्यिक नवाचार, वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान, **समान पहुँच**, और **कक्षीय स्थिरता** के बीच संतुलन रखे।

- Without binding international standards and equitable allocation, the fight for spectrum could become a war, risking creating an orbital environment that is eventually too congested for anyone to use.

बाध्यकारी अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों और **समान आवंटन** के बिना स्पेक्ट्रम के लिए संघर्ष एक **युद्ध** बन सकता है, जिससे एक ऐसी कक्षा बन सकती है जो **अत्यधिक भीड़भाड़** के कारण किसी के उपयोग के लायक न रहे।

- For emerging space nations like India, shaping these frameworks now, rather than accepting rules written by other governments, will determine whether space becomes a shared resource or a domain of persistent inequality.

भारत जैसे उभरते अंतरिक्ष राष्ट्रों के लिए, इन ढाँचों को **अभी** आकार देना—दूसरे देशों द्वारा लिखे नियम स्वीकार करने के बजाय—यह तय करेगा कि अंतरिक्ष एक **साझा संसाधन** बनेगा या **स्थायी असमानता** का क्षेत्र।

## GS Paper III: Environment

### TOPICS COVERED

11\_12\_2025

1.	<b>Protected marine areas not part of offshore blocks: govt.</b> संरक्षित समुद्री क्षेत्र ऑफ़शोर ब्लॉक्स का हिस्सा नहीं हैं: सरकार
2.	<b>Breeding project gives endangered western tragopan breathing space</b> लुप्तप्राय वेस्टर्न ट्रेगोपैन को प्रजनन परियोजना से सांस लेने की जगह मिलती है
3.	<b>Low-carbon leaders harder to spot on EU sustainability cutback</b> ईयू स्थिरता कटौती पर लो-कार्बन नेताओं को पहचानना कठिन
4.	<b>EU members to cut emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels</b> 1990 स्तरों से 2040 तक ईयू सदस्यों द्वारा उत्सर्जन में 90% की कटौती



# Protected marine areas not part of offshore blocks: govt.

Coastal and biodiversity areas have been notified, says Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences; environmental management plan will be made before mining operation, he says

**GS III: Environment**

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

**O**ffshore blocks in the seas made available to private companies for mining were carved out after excluding regions known to be Marine Protected Areas, the Earth Sciences Ministry said in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday.

Earlier this year, protests had erupted in Kerala – cutting across party lines – over the Centre’s proposal in November 2024 to auction 13 blocks in the sea to private companies to mine for construction-grade sand off the coast of Kerala, three blocks of lime mud off the coast of Gujarat, and seven blocks of polymetallic nodules and crust off the Great Nicobar Island in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The protests, however, were concentrated in Kerala where fishermen communities protested that such mining would destroy marine life and deplete fish stocks. The Kerala Assem-

**Eco shield** | The Union government has said that marine protected sites will not be used for mining of minerals

- 23 offshore blocks have been proposed: 13 sand blocks (Kerala), 3 lime mud blocks (Gujarat), 7 polymetallic blocks (Andaman and Nicobar)

- Fisher families and green activities have expressed concerns over depleting marine life stock



- Offshore Areas Mineral Trust has been established with coastal States as members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust

The production plan, *inter alia*, includes an environmental management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures



**JITENDRA SINGH**  
Minister of State for Earth Sciences

ly passed a resolution in March opposing the auctioning of the block.

Rahul Gandhi, former MP for Wayanad and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revoke the auction announcement. So far, no companies have been selected from the auction.

The Environment Ministry had notified 130 Marine Protected Areas across the coastal States and islands, and 106 coastal and marine sites have been identified and prioritised as Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas

(ICMBAs) to take care of marine species conservation, Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, said in a statement.

“The offshore blocks have been carved by excluding these areas. Furthermore, as per the provisions of the Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024, no production operations shall be undertaken except in accordance with a production plan. The production plan, *inter alia*, includes an environmental management plan indicat-

ing impact assessment and mitigation measures,” he said.

The Offshore Areas Mineral Trust has been established with coastal States as members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust. The funds accruing to the Trust will be used for research, administration, studies and related expenditure with respect to offshore areas and mitigation of any adverse impact that may be caused to the ecology in the offshore area, due to operations undertaken, the statement underlined.

## Protected marine areas not part of offshore blocks: govt.

**संरक्षित समुद्री क्षेत्र ऑफ़शोर ब्लॉक्स का हिस्सा नहीं हैं: सरकार**

- Coastal and biodiversity areas have been notified, says **Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences**; environmental management plan will be made before mining operation, he says  
तटीय और जैव विविधता वाले क्षेत्रों को अधिसूचित किया गया है, **जितेंद्र सिंह**, पृथ्वी विज्ञान राज्य मंत्री ने कहा; वे कहते हैं कि खनन संचालन से पहले पर्यावरण प्रबंधन योजना बनाई जाएगी
- Offshore blocks in the seas made available to private companies for mining were carved out after excluding regions known to be **Marine Protected Areas**, the Earth Sciences Ministry said in response to a query in the Lok Sabha by Thiruvananthapuram MP **Shashi Tharoor** on Wednesday.  
समुद्र में निजी कंपनियों को खनन के लिए उपलब्ध कराए गए ऑफ़शोर ब्लॉक्स को **समुद्री संरक्षित क्षेत्र** माने



जाने वाले इलाकों को बाहर रखने के बाद तैयार किया गया था, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को लोकसभा में तिरुवनंतपुरम सांसद **शशि थरूर** द्वारा पूछे गए प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा।

- Earlier this year, protests had erupted in **Kerala** — cutting across party lines — over the Centre's proposal in **November 2024** to **auction 13 blocks in the sea to private companies to mine for construction-grade sand off the coast of Kerala, three blocks of lime mud off the coast of Gujarat, and seven blocks of polymetallic nodules and crust off the Great Nicobar Island** in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, **केरल** में — दलगत सीमाओं को पार करते हुए — **नवंबर 2024** में केंद्र के प्रस्ताव पर विरोध भड़क उठे, जिसमें समुद्र में निर्माण-ग्रेड रेत के खनन के लिए केरल तट से लगे 13 ब्लॉक्स, गुजरात तट से लगे चूने की मिट्टी के तीन ब्लॉक्स और अंडमान व निकोबार द्वीप समूह के **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप** से लगे सात पॉलीमेटैलिक नोड्यूल और क्रस्ट ब्लॉक्स को नीलाम करने की योजना थी।

- The protests, however, were concentrated in Kerala where fishermen communities protested that **such mining would destroy marine life and deplete fish stocks**. The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in March opposing the auctioning of the block.

हालांकि विरोध मुख्य रूप से केरल में केंद्रित था, जहां मछुआरा समुदायों ने विरोध किया कि इस तरह का खनन समुद्री जीवन को नष्ट कर देगा और मछलियों के भंडार को खत्म कर देगा। केरल विधानसभा ने मार्च में ब्लॉक की नीलामी का विरोध करते हुए एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया।

- **Rahul Gandhi**, former MP for Wayanad and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had written to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to revoke the auction announcement. So far, no companies have been selected from the auction.

**राहुल गांधी**, वायनाड के पूर्व सांसद और लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता, ने प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** को नीलामी की घोषणा वापस लेने के लिए लिखा था। अब तक, नीलामी से कोई भी कंपनी चयनित नहीं हुई है।

- The **Environment Ministry** had notified **130 Marine Protected Areas** across the coastal States and islands, and **106 coastal and marine sites** have been identified and prioritised as **Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas (ICMBAs)** to take care of marine species conservation, **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, said in a statement.

पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने तटीय राज्यों और द्वीपों में **130 समुद्री संरक्षित क्षेत्रों** को अधिसूचित किया है, और **106 तटीय और समुद्री स्थलों** को **महत्वपूर्ण तटीय और समुद्री जैव विविधता क्षेत्र (ICMBAs)** के रूप में पहचाना और प्राथमिकता दी गई है, ताकि समुद्री प्रजातियों के संरक्षण का ध्यान रखा जा सके, **जितेंद्र सिंह**, पृथ्वी विज्ञान राज्य मंत्री ने एक बयान में कहा।

- “The offshore blocks have been carved by excluding these areas. Furthermore, as per the provisions of the **Offshore Areas Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024**, **no production operations shall be undertaken except in accordance with a production plan**. The production plan, inter alia, includes an environmental management plan indicating baseline information, impact assessment and mitigation measures,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “ऑफ़शोर ब्लॉक्स को इन क्षेत्रों को बाहर रखते हुए तैयार किया गया है। इसके अलावा, **ऑफ़शोर एरिया खनिज संरक्षण और विकास नियम, 2024** के प्रावधानों के अनुसार, उत्पादन योजना के अनुरूप हुए बिना कोई उत्पादन कार्य नहीं किया जा सकता। उत्पादन योजना में, अन्य बातों के साथ, पर्यावरण प्रबंधन योजना शामिल है, जिसमें आधारभूत जानकारी, प्रभाव मूल्यांकन और शमन उपाय शामिल हैं।”

- The **Offshore Areas Mineral Trust** has been established with coastal States as members of the **Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Trust**.

**ऑफ़शोर एरिया मिनरल ट्रस्ट** की स्थापना की गई है, जिसमें तटीय राज्य ट्रस्ट के गवर्निंग बॉडी और कार्यकारी समिति के सदस्य हैं।

- The funds accruing to the Trust will be used for research, administration, studies and related expenditure with respect to offshore areas and mitigation of any adverse impact that may be caused to the ecology in the offshore area, due to operations undertaken, the statement underlined.

बयान में कहा गया कि ट्रस्ट को प्राप्त धनराशि का उपयोग अनुसंधान, प्रशासन, अध्ययनों और ऑफ़शोर क्षेत्रों से संबंधित व्ययों के लिए किया जाएगा, और संचालन के कारण ऑफ़शोर क्षेत्र की पारिस्थितिकी पर पड़ने वाले किसी भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के शमन के लिए किया जाएगा।



# Breeding project gives endangered western tragopan breathing space

Experts warn that, despite the success of the captive breeding project, the species' long-term survival remains uncertain without simultaneous habitat protection; fewer than 9,500 individuals remain in the wild and climate change and encroachment continue to pose a threat

GS III: Environment

Aditya Ansh

**T**he western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) is one of India's rarest pheasants and the state bird of Himachal Pradesh. It was once found across parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, but now survives in small, fragmented pockets.

Studies in the forests of Kazinag and Limber in Jammu & Kashmir have revealed that while habitats with suitable climates for the bird do exist, human disturbance and habitat fragmentation continue to endanger its future.

Conservationists at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have estimated that only 3,000-9,500 mature tragopans remain and that all belong to a single subpopulation. Roughly a quarter lie across the western Himalayas and the northern parts of Pakistan.

Yet deep inside Himachal Pradesh's Great Himalayan National Park, seasoned bird-watchers have said the tragopan still holds its ground.

## The Sarahan Pheasantry

"Seeing one in the wild is rare and depends a lot on planning and luck, where sightings are about 60% on well planned trips," said Panki Sood, a seasonal birdwatcher and a host at a travel company.

Wildlife Institute of India records say the first captive births took place in 1993. In 2005, the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department achieved a first when four western tragopan chicks hatched at the Sarahan Pheasantry, marking the world's first successful captive breeding programme in the world. From 2007 to 2015, 43 captive-born individuals were recorded, although their survival rates fluctuated due to skewed sex ratios and mortality among older birds. Genetic analysis further revealed that the entire captive population had originated from only eight wild founders, retaining about 87% of their genetic diversity.

Sarahan Pheasantry staff recalled how inconsistent the early years were.

"In 2007-2008, there were none at all," Ms. Keerthi (name changed on request), who has worked at the pheasantry for more than a decade, said. "There were no eggs, so no chicks. It was only after the biologists came that eggs and chicks finally began appearing."

"When I joined as a research fellow in 2011, the Sarahan Pheasantry hosted about 15 birds," Wildlife Institute of India senior fellow Lakshminarasimha R. recalled.

To stabilise the programme, the experts began to redesign core husbandry systems. "The primary approach was to develop protocols for managing species in captivity. We referred to how it behaved in the wild," Mr. Lakshminarasimha said. Captive tragopans were very sensitive to stress, diseases, and the conditions in the artificial enclosure. Researchers thus recreated elements of their natural habitat, such as dense cover with specific nesting materials and incorporated seasonal dietary changes.

Everything from nesting material and vegetation to diet and feeding schedules were reworked to mimic the tragopan's natural habitat as closely as possible.

"We have 46 tragopans now," Ms.



A captive western tragopan at the Sarahan Pheasantry. P. JEGANATHAN (CC BY-SA)

Keerthi added. "This year, seven or eight chicks hatched and five or six have survived."

## Climate variability, breeding

"Captive breeding emerged as a tool of insurance against major declines," Rahul Kaul, chair of the Galliformes Specialist Group at the IUCN, said.

"But it was always meant to complement, not replace, habitat protection. Unfortunately, much emphasis and resources were laid on protecting and breeding tragopans from outside the wild (*ex-situ*) while the conservation of species in their natural habitats (*in-situ*) was hugely undermined."

Mr. Kaul has been closely involved with pheasant conservation across the Himalayas and also said the initiative was well-intentioned.

"The idea was to breed enough birds for release into identified habitats. Decades later and several crores of rupees spent, we are where we started in terms of conservation benefit. The forest department must be credited for their perseverance: they did produce birds, but without parallel habitat protection, the gains remain limited."

*Ex-situ* programmes have tried to build population security, but a greater threat today is the slow disruption of the tragopan's timing system that synchronises breeding, insect availability, and seasonal changes in the wild.

"Climate variability affects species like the tragopan through warming at lower altitudes and disruption of food resources," Mr. Kaul said.

"If breeding no longer synchronises with insect availability, the chicks may starve. The forests themselves hold the species together, allowing the pheasants to persist. In some areas of Pakistan, communities identify breeding zones and voluntarily leave them untouched until



The entire objective was to move towards reintroduction. In 2020-2021, we carried out releases and results showed the approach was viable

**R. LAKSHMINARASIMHA**  
WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

the chicks can fly. Maybe such adaptive models can be tried [in India] too."

## Stalled rewinding attempt

At the Sarahan Pheasantry, where captive breeding continues, staff members said efforts to take the next step have wanted for support.

"The entire objective was to move towards reintroduction, specifically into forests surrounding Sarahan, and we were finally ready for it. In 2020-2021, we carried out experimental releases and results showed that the approach was viable," Mr. Lakshminarasimha said.

Sources from the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department also acknowledged the *ex-situ* programme had reached a stable phase. They added that the Pheasantry now consistently maintains over 40 western tragopans, with six to eight eggs hatching and four to five chicks surviving every year, figures made possible by years of refinement and expert inputs.

Returning tragopans to the wild is also the most demanding phase of the programme. One forest guard said the Pheasantry had conducted reintroduction trials for two years, releasing birds deep into the forest and tracking them using radio collars. One individual survived in the wild for nearly a year – a highly encouraging sign for such an early-stage attempt – until its tag's battery expired.

According to Forest Department sources (who wished to remain unnamed due to the sensitivity of commenting on

reintroduction funding and programme status), reintroductions have been on hold since 2023 partly due to budgetary constraints linked to wider spending cuts by the State government. Some officials have also stressed that funding is only one part of the challenge.

"The real bottleneck," one official noted, "is the research and protocol development needed before each new release."

Before a tragopan can be returned to the wild, teams must check if release sites and food are available, monitor the birds' predators, and make sure the captive-bred birds can adapt to natural conditions. Mr. Narasimha said he's more hopeful. Reintroduction, he explained, "cannot happen overnight".

Like the decade-long effort that made captive breeding successful, reintroduction also demands patience, experimentation, and adaptive management: "You cannot draw conclusions from only a few attempts. This is a long-term commitment."

## Community support

Despite these challenges, those working closest to the species believe the western tragopan's survival hinges on people as much as policy.

Mr. Sood said local stewardship had already shifted the trajectory: "Community-based tourism is one of the best ways to protect this rare bird." He added that tourism offered local families an alternative income source that didn't depend on forest resources or grazing, giving them direct incentives to keep breeding areas undisturbed.

Since villagers stopped disrupting the forest, more tragopans have been sighted, he said, citing examples from the Rakhundi and Shilt areas.

(Aditya Ansh and Divyam Gautam are independent media writers based in India. [adityaansh30@gmail.com](mailto:adityaansh30@gmail.com))

## Breeding project gives endangered western tragopan breathing space लुप्तप्राय वेस्टर्न ट्रैगोपैन को प्रजनन परियोजना से सांस लेने की जगह मिलती है

- Experts warn that, despite the success of the **captive breeding project**, the species' long-term survival remains uncertain without simultaneous **habitat protection**



विशेषज्ञ चेतावनी देते हैं कि **कैप्टिव ब्रीडिंग प्रोजेक्ट** की सफलता के बावजूद, **आवास संरक्षण** के बिना प्रजाति का दीर्घकालिक अस्तित्व अनिश्चित बना हुआ है

- fewer than **9,500 individuals** remain in the wild and **climate change** and **encroachment** continue to pose a threat  
जंगल में **9,500 से कम** जीवित बचे हैं और **जलवायु परिवर्तन** तथा **अतिक्रमण** लगातार खतरा पैदा करते हैं

## Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus)

### पश्चिमी ट्रैगोफैन (Tragopan melanocephalus)

- The **western tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus)** is one of India's **rarest pheasants** and the **state bird of Himachal Pradesh**.  
पश्चिमी ट्रैगोफैन भारत के **सबसे दुर्लभ तीतरों** में से एक है और **हिमाचल प्रदेश का राज्य पक्षी** है।
- It was once found across parts of **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**, but now survives in small, fragmented pockets.  
यह पहले **जम्मू-कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड** के कई क्षेत्रों में पाया जाता था, लेकिन अब छोटे और बिखरे हुए हिस्सों में बचा हुआ है।
- Studies in the forests of **Kazinag and Limber** in Jammu & Kashmir have revealed that while habitats with suitable climates do exist, **मानव हस्तक्षेप** और **आवास विखंडन** इसके भविष्य को खतरे में डालते हैं।  
जम्मू-कश्मीर के **काज़ीनाग और लिम्बर** के जंगलों में हुए अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि उपयुक्त जलवायु वाले आवास मौजूद हैं, लेकिन **मानव हस्तक्षेप** और **आवास विखंडन** इसके भविष्य को लगातार खतरे में डालते हैं।
- Conservationists at **IUCN** have estimated that only **3,000–9,500 mature tragopans** remain and all belong to a **single subpopulation**.  
संरक्षण विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार केवल **3,000–9,500** परिपक्व ट्रैगोफैन ही बचे हैं और ये सभी **एक ही उप-जनसंख्या** का हिस्सा हैं।
- **Roughly a quarter** lie across the **western Himalayas** and **उत्तरी पाकिस्तान**.  
लगभग **एक-चौथाई** आबादी **पश्चिमी हिमालय** और **उत्तरी पाकिस्तान** में पाई जाती है।
- Yet deep inside **ग्रेट हिमालयन नेशनल पार्क**, अनुभवी पक्षी-दर्शकों का कहना है कि ट्रैगोफैन अभी भी सुरक्षित रूप से मौजूद है।  
फिर भी **ग्रेट हिमालयन नेशनल पार्क** के भीतर अनुभवी पक्षी-दर्शकों ने बताया है कि ट्रैगोफैन अब भी अपनी उपस्थिति बनाए हुए है।
- The staff recalled how inconsistent the early years were.  
कर्मचारियों ने बताया कि शुरुआती वर्ष काफी अस्थिर थे।
- “In **2007–2008**, there were none at all,” said Ms. Keerthi. “There were no eggs, so no chicks. Only after biologists arrived did eggs and chicks appear.”  
कीर्ति के अनुसार **2007–2008** में एक भी पक्षी नहीं था। अंडे नहीं थे, इसलिए चूजे भी नहीं थे। जीवविज्ञानियों के आने के बाद ही अंडे और चूजे दिखने शुरू हुए।
- “Before a tragopan can be returned to the wild, teams must check if release sites and food are available, monitor predators, and ensure captive-bred birds can adapt to **natural conditions**.  
ट्रैगोफैन को जंगल में लौटाने से पहले टीमों को यह सुनिश्चित करना होता है कि रिलीज़ स्थल और भोजन उपलब्ध हों, शिकारियों की निगरानी की जाए, और कैद-प्रजनित पक्षी **प्राकृतिक परिस्थितियों** के अनुकूल हो सकें।
- Mr. Narasimha said he’s more hopeful. Reintroduction, he explained, “cannot happen overnight”.  
लक्ष्मीनरसिम्हा ने कहा कि वे अधिक आशावादी हैं और समझाया कि पुनर्प्रवेश **रातोंरात नहीं हो सकता**।
- Like the decade-long effort that made captive breeding successful, reintroduction also **demands patience, experimentation, and adaptive management**: “You cannot draw conclusions from only a few attempts. This is a **long-term commitment**.”  
जैसे कैद प्रजनन को सफल बनाने में **दस वर्ष** लगे, वैसे ही पुनर्प्रवेश के लिए भी **धैर्य, प्रयोग, और अनुकूलन प्रबंधन** आवश्यक है। यह एक **दीर्घकालिक प्रतिबद्धता** है।

## Community support

### समुदाय समर्थन



- Despite these challenges, those working closest to the species believe the western tragopan's survival hinges on **people as much as policy**.  
इन चुनौतियों के बावजूद, प्रजाति के करीब काम करने वाले मानते हैं कि पश्चिमी ट्रेगोफैन का अस्तित्व **जन-सहयोग और नीतियों दोनों** पर निर्भर है।
- Mr. Sood said local stewardship had already shifted the trajectory: "Community-based tourism is one of the best ways to protect this rare bird."  
सूद ने कहा कि स्थानीय संरक्षण जिम्मेदारी ने पहले ही दिशा बदल दी है। **समुदाय आधारित पर्यटन इस दुर्लभ पक्षी** को बचाने के सर्वोत्तम तरीकों में से एक है।
- He added that tourism offered local families an **alternative income source** that did not depend on forest resources or grazing, giving them direct incentives to keep breeding areas **undisturbed**.

## Low-carbon leaders harder to spot on EU sustainability cutback ईयू स्थिरता कटौती पर लो-कार्बन नेताओं को पहचानना कठिन

- Low-carbon leaders harder to spot on EU sustainability cutback  
ईयू की **सस्टेनेबिलिटी कटौती** पर लो-कार्बन नेताओं को पहचानना कठिन
- A reduction in scope of the **European Union's sustainability disclosure rules may cut red tape for businesses but investors say less transparency will make it harder to identify which companies are genuinely moving toward low-carbon operations**.  
यूरोपीय संघ के **सस्टेनेबिलिटी डिस्क्लोजर नियमों** के दायरे में कमी व्यवसायों के लिए प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बना सकती है, लेकिन निवेशकों का कहना है कि कम **पारदर्शिता** यह पहचानना कठिन बना देगी कि कौन सी कंपनियाँ वास्तव में **लो-कार्बन संचालन** की ओर बढ़ रही हैं।
- After months of pressure from companies and governments, the European Union agreed on Tuesday to sharply scale back two flagship sustainability disclosure laws.  
कंपनियों और सरकारों के महीनों के दबाव के बाद, **यूरोपीय संघ** ने मंगलवार को दो प्रमुख **सस्टेनेबिलिटी डिस्क्लोजर कानूनों** में भारी कटौती करने पर सहमति जताई।
- The changes affect the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** - the EU's rule book that requires large companies to publish detailed information on their environmental, social and governance performance, and the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)**, which requires firms to check supply chains for human rights abuses and environmental harm.  
ये परिवर्तन **कॉर्पोरेट सस्टेनेबिलिटी रिपोर्टिंग डायरेक्टिव (CSRD)** और **कॉर्पोरेट सस्टेनेबिलिटी ड्यू डिलिजेंस डायरेक्टिव (CSDD)** को प्रभावित करते हैं, जो कंपनियों को **ईएसजी प्रदर्शन, मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन, और पर्यावरणीय क्षति** पर जानकारी प्रकाशित करने और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं की जांच करने के लिए बाध्य करते थे।
- The **CSDDD had also required companies to have and implement a plan to cut emissions to net zero, but that obligation has now been dropped**.  
**CSDD** कंपनियों से **नेट-जीरो उत्सर्जन** की योजना बनाने और लागू करने की मांग करता था, लेकिन यह बाध्यता अब हटा दी गई है।

### Less reliable कम विश्वसनीय

- **Watering down the rules means investors will have less reliable, comparable information on companies' sustainability efforts, making it harder to tell which businesses are serious about cutting emissions, managing climate risks and environmental, social and governance standards**.  
नियमों में ढील देने का मतलब है कि निवेशकों के पास कंपनियों के **सस्टेनेबिलिटी प्रयासों** पर कम विश्वसनीय और तुलनीय जानकारी होगी, जिससे यह पहचानना कठिन होगा कि कौन से व्यवसाय **उत्सर्जन कटौती, जलवायु जोखिम प्रबंधन, और ईएसजी मानकों** के प्रति गंभीर हैं।
- Under the changes to CSRD, only companies with more than 1,000 staff making more than €450 million would report, with financial firms excluded.



**CSRD** के बदलावों के तहत केवल वे कंपनियाँ रिपोर्ट करेंगी जिनके पास **1,000 से अधिक कर्मचारी** और **€450 मिलियन** से अधिक उत्पादन है, जबकि वित्तीय कंपनियों को बाहर रखा गया है।

- For CSDDD, the threshold was even higher at 5,000 staff and €1.5 billion in net turnover, with a delayed start date and breaches dealt with at the national rather than EU level, with added flexibility for companies on what to report.

**CSDD** में श्रेयोल्ड और भी अधिक था—**5,000 कर्मचारी** और **€1.5 बिलियन** नेट टर्नओवर, देरी से शुरू होने की तारीख के साथ, और उल्लंघनों का निपटारा ईयू स्तर के बजाय राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर किया जाएगा, साथ ही कंपनियों को यह चुनने में अधिक लचीलापन मिलेगा कि उन्हें क्या रिपोर्ट करना है।

- Hans Stegeman, chief economist at sustainability-focused lender Triodos Bank, said the moves represented a “significant weakening of essential sustainability rules”.  
**हांस स्टेगमेन**, चीफ इकोनॉमिस्ट, **ट्रायोडोस बैंक**, ने कहा कि ये कदम “महत्वपूर्ण **सस्टेनेबिलिटी नियमों** को काफी कमजोर करते हैं।”
- “Legislation meant to combat child labour, environmental pollution, and exploitation in supply chains is being hollowed out. The so-called ‘anti-looking-away law’ has had its scope drastically limited,” he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, “**बाल श्रम, पर्यावरण प्रदूषण**, और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में **शोषण** से लड़ने के लिए बनाई गई कानून को खोखला किया जा रहा है। तथाकथित ‘**एंटी-लुकिंग-अवे कानून**’ का दायरा गंभीर रूप से सीमित कर दिया गया है।”
- Debated since February, the cuts to the EU laws follow months of pressure from companies and governments, including the U.S. and Qatar, who warned Brussels that the rules risked disrupting their gas supplies to Europe.  
फरवरी से बहस में रहे इन **EU कानूनों** में कटौती कंपनियों और सरकारों, जिसमें **अमेरिका** और **कतर** शामिल हैं, के महीनों के दबाव के बाद हुई, जिन्होंने ब्रसेल्स को चेतावनी दी थी कि ये नियम उनकी **गैस आपूर्ति** को बाधित कर सकते हैं।
- Industry groups welcomed the move as relief from Europe’s complex sustainability regime.  
उद्योग समूहों ने इस कदम का स्वागत किया और इसे यूरोप के जटिल **सस्टेनेबिलिटी शासन** से राहत बताया।

## BRUSSELS

### EU members to cut emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels



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#### GS III: Environment

The European Union has reached an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels, involving the purchase of foreign carbon credits to cover 5% of the cuts, the European Parliament said on Wednesday. The deal goes beyond most other economies’ emissions-cutting pledges. REUTERS

अन्य अर्थव्यवस्थाओंकी उत्सर्जन-कटौती प्रतिज्ञाओं से आगे जाता है।

### EU members to cut emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels

#### 1990 स्तरों से 2040 तक ईयू सदस्यों द्वारा उत्सर्जन में 90% की कटौती

- EU members to cut emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels  
1990 स्तरों से 2040 तक ईयू सदस्यउत्सर्जन में 90% की कटौती करेंगे
- The European Union has reached an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 from 1990 levels, involving the purchase of foreign carbon credits to cover 5% of the cuts, the European Parliament said on Wednesday. The deal goes beyond most other economies’ emissions-cutting pledges.  
**यूरोपीय संघ** ने **1990 स्तरों से 2040 तक 90% ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन** कम करने के लिए एक समझौता किया है, जिसमें कटौती के **5%** हिस्से को पूरा करने के लिए विदेशी **कार्बन क्रेडिट** खरीदना शामिल है, यह बात **यूरोपीय संसद** ने बुधवार को कही। यह समझौता अधिकांश